


# Bruce Highway Trust Advisory Council Communique Meeting #1



On 17 July 2020, the inaugural Bruce Highway Trust Advisory Council (the Council) meeting was held on the Sunshine Coast, following a site visit to the Caloundra Road – Sunshine Coast Motorway project.

The Council is chaired by Mr Peter Garske, Director of the Queensland Transport and Logistics Council and former Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Trucking Association, supported by Deputy Chair Ms Barbara Madden, Company Director of the Smithfield Group.

The role of the Council is to oversee the development a new 15-year Vision for the Bruce Highway (Brisbane – Cairns), and to identify priorities to be delivered through three, five-year rolling Action Plans, in order to inform future Federal and State Budget deliberations.

Members of the Council will identify priority projects for federal and state Minister's consideration, based on three key factors: *unlocking economic growth; building flood resilience and improving safety* – drawing on the knowledge of key peak bodies and industry stakeholders, including the Local Government Association of Queensland, Royal Automobile Club of Queensland, Queensland Trucking Association, Queensland Farmers' Federation, Queensland Tourism Industry Council and Transport Workers Union.


The Director-General of the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications are also participating on the Advisory Council to provide subject matter and governance expertise.

The Honourable Mark Bailey MP, Minister for Transport and Main Roads addressed the inaugural meeting, welcomed members and outlined the Queensland Government's expectations of the Council. Prior to taking his leave, Minister Bailey also noted the current record investment by federal and state governments in the Bruce Highway, which comprises a 15-year \$12.6 billion program of works (2013-14 to 2027-28) and wished members well in their deliberations.

Members noted the governance arrangements for the Council, including the Terms of Reference, role and objectives.

The Council is supported by a Secretariat and a Technical Working Group within the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR). Council members were briefed on the role of the Technical Working Group, proposed key milestones and outputs for Council consideration, including a Bruce Highway Baseline Condition and Performance Audit Report and economic outlook for the Bruce Highway (Brisbane to Cairns) which will be considered by the Council later in the year.

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Council members also received a briefing on the delivery status of the current Bruce Highway Upgrade Program including:

- corridor objectives and network performance
- highlights to date
- projects funded – underway (plan/construct) and projects completed
- examples of future potential unfunded TMR priorities for Council consideration.

Members discussed the highest priority issues for the stakeholders and customers they represent, and what success looks like from their perspective. This included:

- investment in productivity boosting projects, noting the safety and economic benefits that flow to all road users and the greater Queensland community
- an ongoing focus on delivering the successful and relatively lower-cost work like Wide Centre Line Treatment to provide safer roads for all road users
- continuing investment in high-priority locations to minimise disruptions to traffic on the Bruce Highway in extreme weather events, noting the impact of delays on the transport of agricultural and livestock supply chains can be significant
- supporting the enduring shift to drive-tourism with a safe and enjoyable travel experience for tourists on the Bruce Highway
- the need to support heavy vehicle drivers to deliver goods to market efficiently and safely, ensuring any opportunity for increased Higher Productivity Vehicles is matched to a safer road environment.

By working together, the Council will help accountable federal and state Ministers ensure that future investment on the Bruce Highway is focused on the right projects – at the right time – to continue to improve the productivity, resilience and safety of the Bruce Highway.

The next Council meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 2020.

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## Bruce Highway Trust Advisory Council members and attendees at inaugural meeting, Sunshine Coast – 17 July 2020

Member	Position	BHTAC Position	Proxy
Mr Peter Garske	Company Director, Queensland Transport and Logistics Council (QTLC)	Chair	
Ms Barbara Madden	Company Director of the Smithfield Group	Deputy Chair	
Mr Peter Biagini	Branch Secretary, Transport Workers Union Queensland	Member	
Dr Georgina Davis	Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Farmers' Federation	Member	
Mr Daniel Gschwind	Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Tourism Industry Council	Member	
Mr Greg Hallam (Apology)	Chief Executive Officer, Local Government Association of Queensland	Member	Mr Robert Chow, Lead - Transport and Logistics, (LGAQ)
Mr Gary Mahon	Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Trucking Association	Member	
Mr Paul Turner (Apology)	Chief Communication Officer, Royal Automobile Club of Queensland	Member	Dr Rebecca Michael, Head of Public Policy (RACQ)
Mr Simon Atkinson (Apology)	Secretary, Federal Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Member	Ms Shona Rosengren, Assistant Secretary, North-West Infrastructure (DITRDC)
Mr Neil Scales	Director-General, Department of Transport and Main Roads	Member	