



9th March 2011

UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020

Canberra Roundtable Communiqué

March 2011

On 3rd March 2011 more than 40 Australian and international senior road safety professionals from industry, government, academia, police and road user groups met at Parliament House in Canberra to discuss and plan an Australian program for the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety to be launched around the world on 11th May 2011.

The pre-launch Roundtable at Parliament House, designed to consider how Australia should respond to, and support the UN initiative, was officially opened by The Hon Catherine King MP, the Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure and Transport and Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Ageing.

The 11th May 2011 will mark the start of a global initiative that was instigated by a United Nations Resolution, and co-sponsored by more than 90 countries, including Australia. It recognised the tremendous global burden of the 1.2 million fatalities resulting from road crashes, as well as the 20 million to 50 million people sustaining non-fatal traffic-related injuries each year. The UN General Assembly proclaimed the period 2011-2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety, with the goal of stabilizing and eventually reducing the number of deaths and injuries.

Road crash trauma is a major burden on health systems, as well as inflicting a massive amount of pain and suffering on individuals, families and communities. Around 90% of these deaths and injuries occur in low and middle income countries, many of which are Australia's neighbours.

Australia has made great progress in reducing the road toll from 1970 when the toll peaked at 3798 killed and 33,000 severely injured. That placed us amongst the worst in the world with 30.4 deaths per 100,000 population. Last year, despite increased traffic since the 70's, 1368 were killed at a rate of 6.1 deaths per 100,000 population.

Speakers at the Roundtable centred on the five pillars of the Global Plan for the Decade of Action: road safety management, safer vehicles, safer drivers, safer roads; and post-crash care.

Australia has implemented successful strategies in all these pillars to reduce road trauma and now plays an important and well recognised role in addressing road safety in our region, and the world.

An international perspective to the road safety problem was provided by Datuk Suret Singh, (ASEAN Road Safety representative and Director General Road Safety Department, Ministry of Transport, Malaysia) Rob Klein (GHVI / FIA Foundation) and Tyrrell Duncan (Asian Development Bank).

Other speakers included Eric Howard, previously General Manager Road Safety at VicRoads (management); Rob McInerney, CEO iRAP (safer roads and mobility); Lauchlan McIntosh AM, Chairman ANCAP and President ACRS (safer vehicles); Professor Drew Richardson, ANU Medical School (post-crash care); and Ken Lay (Deputy Commissioner Victoria Police) and Ken Moroney previously NSW Police Commissioner; (road safety policing).

The key recommendations from discussion at the Roundtable were;

1. To accept the offer from the Asian Development Bank to embed a small group of Australian road safety professionals in their transport infrastructure programs and work towards a \$20m regional road safety program on top of existing Bank lending activities throughout the Decade of Action.

2. To encourage AusAID to expand their existing financial support for road safety in aid programs, particularly through the UN Decade of Action Fund and in specifying road safety outcomes in road infrastructure projects, motorcycle helmet usage, NCAP testing for cars produced for sale in developing countries, collection and analysis of crash data, supporting institutional and regulatory reform, establishment of road policing as distinct from traffic enforcement, capacity building for road safety practitioners and development of expertise in assessing and modifying road user behaviour.
3. To encourage the Australian Government to place road safety performance and programs on the agenda for Ministerial Councils for Health, Transport and Justice as well as regional and international Prime Ministerial and other high level meetings such as APEC, WHO, and Policing.
4. To encourage the Australian Government to actively participate with industry, agencies (health, transport, disability, justice) and research institutions in skills development, professional accreditation, best practice development and through the extension of various existing regional road safety programs.
5. To encourage professionals through their specialist Colleges and other groups in road safety, medicine, engineering, and behavioural science to establish outreach programs with financial support from Governments (Federal and State), their agencies, industry, road user groups through the various international bodies such as the Global Road Safety Facility, the WHO, ASEAN, APEC and the development banks.

The meeting concluded with unanimous support for the following Resolution:

The Canberra Road Safety Roundtable supports the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020. The participants of the Roundtable and the organisations they represent, express concern at the high level of death and injury on the world's roads and acknowledge that road death and injury is preventable. The participants and their organizations will seek ways in which they can contribute to the Decade of Action and ensure that Australia plays a lead role in the Asia-Pacific region and globally in preventing millions of deaths and serious injuries.

ARRB Group and the Australasian College of Road Safety (ACRS) sponsored the Roundtable with the support of the FIA Foundation. Full details of the Roundtable will be available shortly on the following websites: www.arrb.com.au and www.acrs.org.au.



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