



## SUCCESS AT LAST!

Infrastructure Australia (IA) Co-coordinator Mr. Michael Deegan made an announcement of national significance on Australia Day, launching an accord between the Australian Rural Road Group (ARRG) and Infrastructure Australia, known as the 'Bingara Accord'.

Link: <http://austwideruralroadsgroup.com/?p=648>

This recognition marks a major breakthrough in support of the ARRG methodology, which has long been campaigning for an asset management approach to road funding.

The recently released National Road Asset Reporting Pilot has demonstrated that once again, the ARRG, in partnership with Infrastructure Australia, is at the leading edge of road reform nationally.

The pilot report has demonstrated that it is possible to monitor and report the true condition of all roads in Australia, thereby allowing the nation's collective road budget of \$19 Billion to be distributed towards areas of greatest concern for productivity and safety. As Infrastructure Australia agrees, this would certainly see an improvement in the nation's roads over successive budget cycles.

Currently, Australia's collective annual road spend is allocated in a scattergun approach, without any way of measuring the efficiency of the spend. This was borne out at a meeting with Department of Infrastructure and Regional Developments' Secretary, Mr Michael Mirdak, where he revealed to the ARRG delegation that

the Department had no knowledge of the condition of the roads he was funding and seriously doubted local governments' ability to produce such a report.

The ARRG have long advocated for the efficient and accurate measurement of our road asset condition to encourage real reform in road funding. This allows for targeted investment based on nationally significant views of productivity and safety needs, thereby de-politicising the distribution of funds available to the road asset.

The ARRG are delighted with the support from Infrastructure Australia and contributing Councils. This breakthrough is a credit to the dedication of Local Government Engineers, Administrators and Grader Drivers.

The roads group looks forward to advancing this cause throughout 2014 and meeting with our new government politicians and other interested parties including The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) in February.

The ARRG again seeks your financial support in this endeavor as this is the first real road reform for many years. In partnering with Infrastructure Australia we are confident we can achieve better outcomes for local rural roads.

It is more important now than ever that you renew or join the group to move to the next stage. The higher the membership, the more successful our endeavors will be!

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The ARRG is a non-partisan alliance of all rural-based local governments across Australia concerned about the lack of planning and management of our road infrastructure and tired of the lost productivity and lost and damaged lives that result. To see the group's policy publications including Australia's Road Infrastructure Is In Crisis (But For Once, The Answer Isn't More Money) visit [www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com](http://www.austwideruralroadsgroup.com)

