

**NINTH REVIEW OF THE EXERCISE OF THE FUNCTIONS  
OF THE  
MOTOR ACCIDENTS AUTHORITY  
AND THE  
MOTOR ACCIDENTS COUNCIL**

**Organisation:** NSW Roads and Traffic Authority  
**Name:** Mr Les Wielinga  
**Position:** Chief Executive Officer  
**Telephone:** 9218 6319  
**Date received:** 22/05/2008

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CE08/433

The Honourable Christine Robertson MLC  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Law and Justice  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

### Ninth review of the exercise of the functions of the Motor Accidents Authority and Motor Accidents Council

Dear Chair

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission into the ninth review of the exercise of the functions of the Motor Accidents Authority (MAA) and Motor Accidents Council (MAC).

The RTA's submission to the ninth review will focus on "the exercise by the Authority and Council of their functions" (term of reference 2.A) as they relate to road safety and driver and vehicle services.

The Driver and Vehicle Services Branch of the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) enjoys a close working relationship with the MAA in its capacity as the Compulsory Third Party (CTP) insurance industry regulator. CTP insurance is an essential pre-requisite for motor vehicle registration and is provided by seven licenced insurers.

The MAA acts as convenor for ongoing tripartite working group meetings between the RTA, MAA and the insurers. This is an effective forum that ensures issues and changes are dealt with in an efficient manner, and that improvements in the RTA's registration processes are reflected in the provision of CTP policies by insurers. In this regard, the RTA is of the view that the MAA carries out its functions very well.

Since the eight review of the exercise of the functions of the MAA and the MAC, the RTA has established the NSW Centre for Road Safety, which may be of relevance in the Committee's considerations of the road safety functions of the MAA in particular.

The Centre for Road Safety is the peak body in NSW responsible for Road Safety, and, under the State Plan, the RTA is responsible for the delivery of Priority S7, which is to "reduce road fatalities to 0.7 per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled (VKT) by 2016".

The primary objective of the Centre is to promote Road Safety as a core value and key influence on decision-making across the organisation and the road-using public. It leads the development and implementation of State-wide road safety strategies, policies and programs and promotes RTA leadership at state and national levels to reduce the trauma and cost of road casualties to the community.



The Centre leads and coordinates the integration of road safety objectives and responsibilities across the RTA, particularly within the infrastructure and traffic management programs.

It also develops and maintains positive and effective working relationships with other state, federal and local government agencies and community organisations, particularly NSW Police, local government and education sectors in support of the State's road safety strategic plans.

The Centre is committed to being the world's leading institute for road safety research, innovation, policy and strategy, through the development of expert knowledge within the Centre and the creation of highly functional relationships with delivery partners.

Whilst the Centre has only been fully operational since January 2008, it is of the view that there is a productive and successful relationship between the MAA, MAC and the RTA.

However, there may be scope to improve this relationship through improved sharing of resources and collaboration on projects, particularly in light of the establishment within the RTA of the Centre for Road Safety and the RTA's responsibilities under the NSW State Plan.

There are productive partnerships already in existence in developing, jointly funding and implementing safety campaigns, such as a recent campaign involving motorcycle safety and the joint funding and management of the NSW Injury Risk Management Research centre.

On other projects, such as the MAA's "*Choose Right, Fit Right*" brochure development, the Centre would have valued greater collaboration and sharing of resources, including those relating to intellectual property.

Recent meetings between senior staff of the Centre for Road Safety and the MAA have been fruitful, and have focused on the MAA's strategy of moving to a more evidence-based approach to road safety. This new approach is welcomed by the Centre for Road Safety, and the RTA trusts that a mutually beneficial relationship will continue to develop with the new Centre and the MAA in order to further progress road safety outcomes across New South Wales.

In line with this, opportunities may exist for the Centre for Road Safety and the MAA to become a closer partners in identifying and prioritising road safety countermeasures, such as further opportunities for joint announcements, sign off, and endorsement of programs (this will require joint ownership and development of projects). This will avoid may result in a reduction of the duplication of resources and result in a more focused regime of road safety initiatives and programs, and may more accurately reflect the Centre for Road Safety's new responsibilities under the State Plan.

The RTA and the Centre for Road Safety would welcome the opportunity to further discuss these issues. Dr Soames Job, A/Director, Centre for Road Safety can be contacted on 9218 3564.

Yours sincerely



Les Wielinga  
Chief Executive

18.05.08