

Terms of Reference

Inquiry into Federal road funding

The Committee was asked to:

- Review the Commonwealth role in road funding and identify the most effective means of fulfilling that role.
- Assess the adequacy and extent of the National Highway as currently declared in meeting the objective of providing a national road system that meets the needs of industry and the community.
- Assess the level of funding required to adequately fulfil the Commonwealth role. This should take into account the current condition of the asset, depreciation and maintenance requirements, as well as new investment required to meet demand growth, changes in technology (especially increased weight limits for heavy vehicles) and community expectations of road standards.
- Examine whether current administrative arrangements have an adequate performance focus, promote effective and efficient use of funds and adoption by States and Territories of best practice, and provide an effective Commonwealth/State interface.
- Assess the scope to supplement Government funding through innovative arrangements for private sector involvement in the provision and maintenance of roads infrastructure and the scope for pricing of road services to reflect full resource costs.

In undertaking this review the Committee was asked to take into account the National Commission of Audit principles of clarifying the roles and responsibilities of Governments with the overriding objective of improving the outcome to clients and achieving value for money for the taxpayer.

The Committee is asked to report by 30 November 1997 so that its findings can be considered by the Government in the formulation of its budget for 1998–99.

