



Delia Lawrie

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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World Road Congress

There is plenty that the Northern Territory can learn from international innovation at the World Road Congress in France being attended by a delegation headed by Minister for Transport Delia Lawrie.

The Congress has included discussion and seminars on issues as varied as dealing with urban road congestion and providing sustainable roads in sparse populations - all relevant to our diverse Northern Territory.

Minister Lawrie said that there was a common theme to most discussions, the importance of roads towards achieving economic and social outcomes.

“While the importance of roads to the economy has long been acknowledged, road funding priorities are now being looked at through a social prism in some countries,” said Ms Lawrie.

“There are emerging examples of improved road infrastructure leading to greater social outcomes in under-developed areas of the world.

“In the Northern Territory our rural roads are under-developed, with only 23% of our road network sealed.

“Improving our roads is an essential component of generating economic and social opportunities across the Territory, particularly in our regions.”

The Commonwealth Government has announced that they have \$22 billion set aside to spend on Australian roads in the upcoming years.

“It is essential that our under-developed Territory road infrastructure is taken into account in the allocation of this funding. We require a significant additional ‘catch-up’ injection by the Commonwealth,” said Ms Lawrie.

Executive Officer of the Australian Trucking Association (NT) Mr Peter Goad said that the Congress outlined many innovative ideas to assist the freight industry that would be applicable in the Northern Territory.

“Every dollar spent on roads has a multiplier effect towards economic growth,” said Mr Goed.

“There are many models and systems that the Territory can learn from in relation to how and where infrastructure funding is spent.”

The delegation will travel to Germany on the weekend to look at the latest in truck safety technology.

Contact: Bethaney Jensen 0423 593 999

