



Australian Government  
Infrastructure Australia

# Outlook 2014 Conference

## *Infrastructure for Agriculture*

Mr Rory Brennan  
Acting Infrastructure Coordinator  
4 March 2014



# THEMES

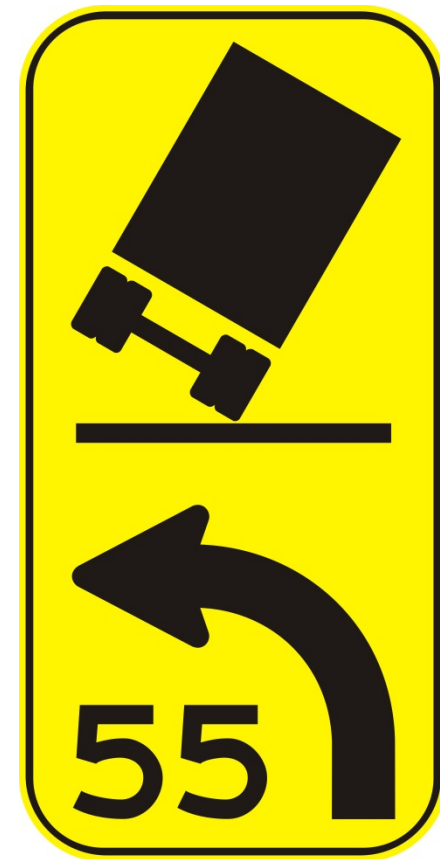
- Basis
- Why?
- Questions
- Pilots
- Where to





# BASIS

- Infrastructure is only as good as its use
- Fit for purpose means right investment
- Net user financial benefit = right investment
- Need to consider ‘externalities’





# WHY?

- Widespread concern about local rural roads
- Changes in agriculture over last 30 years
- Transport & storage no longer social services
- Less rail, less local off farm storage
- Costs shifted to local governments?





# QUESTIONS



- National freight network: what about the rest?
- Does the roads story makes sense?
- Can users say (get) as well as users pay?



# ROAD PILOTS

- Earlier road trials unsatisfactory
- Need to test user pays = user says
- Identification of needs by industry, not road owner
- Picked three to understand issues
  1. Chullora – metropolitan place
  2. Hume – network line haul
  3. Bingara – rural roads



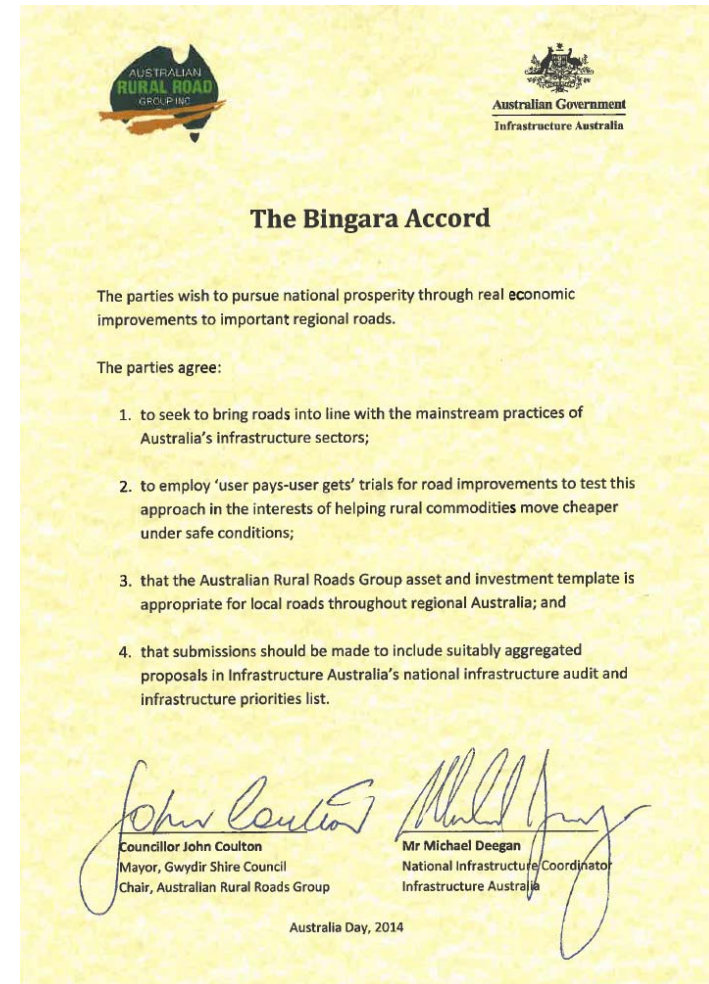
# BINGARA

- Testing potential for a road portfolio manager
- Three questions/stages:
  1. Is it possible to assess road condition nationally?
  2. Can (1) be used to identify investment opportunities?
  3. Can a deal be done?
- Answers
  - Stage 1: Yes: easily. Report at website
  - Stage 2: Yes: some not every road. Report at website
  - Stage 3: Probably Yes: with some nuances, underway.



# WHERE TO

- Conclude Bingara pilot / trial
- Draft access deeds
- Three tiered approach to national freight
  1. national network; national regime
  2. connective state road: opt in regime
  3. other: bottom up
- Simplified rules of thumb e.g. roads at right angles to rail line
- Bingara accord and request for projects







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