

Remote Areas Consultative Group (RACG)

Terms of Reference Version 10.0

Table 1 Terms of Reference versions endorsed by the RACG

Version	Publication date
1.0	30 July 2004
2.0	12 May 2009
3.0	11 November 2009
4.0	24 November 2011
5.0	14 February 2013
6.0	14 February 2018
7.0	20 November 2018
8.0	15 May 2020
9.0	31 August 2020
10.0	14 September 2023

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1. Purpose

The purpose of the Remote Areas Consultative Group (RACG) is to:

- a) Provide a platform for remote area operators and senior agency officers to exchange information and views on inter-jurisdictional barriers to effective cross-border operations for road transport and to recommend solutions to problems.
- b) Provide a forum for consultation between jurisdictional, industry and national members on a range of road transport issues relating to remote areas, including proposed reforms.
- c) Provide an avenue for remote area operators and senior agency officers to put recommendations on remote areas transport issues to the Infrastructure and Transport Senior Officials' Committee (ITSOC) and the Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meeting (ITMM) through their respective jurisdictional chief executives.

2. Role

The role of the RACG is to act as an advisory body to ITSOC and (through ITSOC) to the ITMM. In order to maximise its effectiveness in national reforms, the RACG will align its work with respect to national policies with the priorities set by the ITMM.

RACG may develop a rolling program of activities that can be realistically and reasonably executed by its members. This program may cover projects across the full domain from national to local and will involve close consultation with appropriate agencies.

3. Objectives

The objectives of the RACG are to:

- a) Identify and resolve where possible, through consultation, inter-jurisdictional barriers to effective operations for road transport in remote areas, including across border issues.
- b) Advise ITSOC, through the respective jurisdictional chief executives, on priority reforms for remote areas and views from a remote area perspective on national reform proposals.

4. Geographical coverage

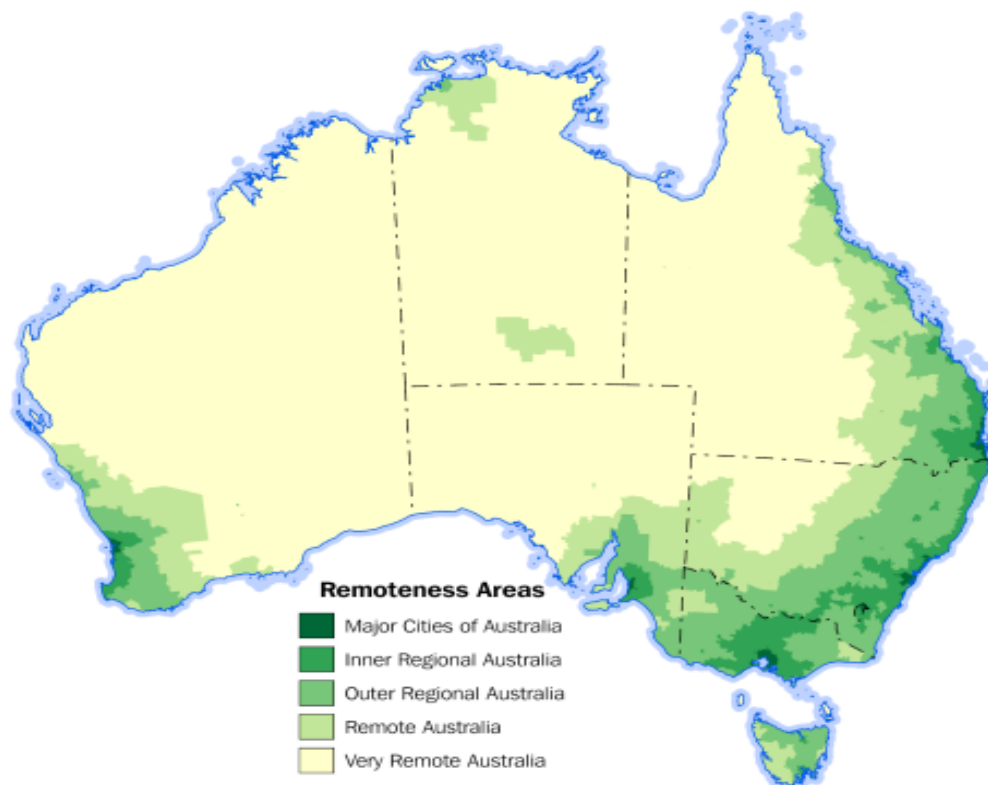
The RACG covers issues within the very remote areas of Australia and adopts the definition used under the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia Plus (ARIA+).¹

The ABS map of ASGS Edition 3 Remoteness Areas for Australia² shown in Figure 1 will be the base for identifying Remoteness boundaries for the RACG. However, consideration of issues outside of the above definition of very remote Australia may be explored by the RACG on a case-by-case basis.

¹ <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/remoteness+structure>

² [Remoteness Areas | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

Figure 1 Map of ASGS Edition 3 Remoteness Areas for Australia



5. RACG membership

The RACG members:

- a) Will include a chair from the host jurisdiction and 3 representatives from the RACG jurisdictions:
 - i. The Northern Territory;
 - ii. Queensland;
 - iii. Western Australia; and
 - iv. South Australia
- b) May include representatives from National organisations listed in Section (c) below;
- c) may be appointed for a two-year term;
- d) may be renominated for consecutive terms;
- e) may be represented by a proxy; and
- f) are responsible for reporting to the agencies or industry group they represent.

5.1 Chair

The Chair of the RACG will rotate between the senior officials of jurisdictions on a two-yearly basis and will be appointed by the Chief Executive of the host jurisdiction.

The Chair is responsible for:

- a) Providing secretariat support to the RACG, including preparing meeting agendas, minutes, and other relevant material; arranging meetings, conferences and special events connected to RACG; and the preparation of submissions to progress issues.
- b) Preparing communiques to be published on the host jurisdiction's website following each meeting.
- c) Representing the RACG in engaging with the public and the media.

5.2 Jurisdictional members

Each RACG jurisdiction may nominate three members:

- a) One member shall represent the relevant government agency in that jurisdiction and should be at a senior level within that agency.
 - i. This member shall be approved by the Chief Executive (or equivalent, or in accordance with delegations within the jurisdiction) of that jurisdiction's relevant government agency, via written correspondence to the Chair.
- b) Each of the other two members shall represent an industry body which represents the interests of that body's members in that jurisdiction.
 - i. Each of these members shall be nominated by the Chief Executive (or equivalent, or in accordance with delegations within the jurisdiction) of that jurisdiction's relevant government agency, via written correspondence to the Chair.

5.3 National organisations

National organisations listed below, and others as required, will be invited to nominate one member, who should be familiar with remote area issues:

- a) [National Transport Commission \(NTC\)](#)
- b) [National Heavy Vehicle Regulator \(NHVR\)](#)
- c) [National Road Transport Association \(NatRoad\)](#)
- d) [National Transport Research Organisation \(NTRO\)](#)

Each of these members shall be nominated and approved by the Chief Executive (or equivalent) of the National organisation they represent, via written correspondence to the Chair.

Invitations to new organisations currently not represented on RACG to become members must be endorsed by the RACG members.

5.4 Observers

Other individuals may be invited by the Chair to attend as observers for specific meetings where items of relevance to them are to be discussed.

5.5 Other

Other jurisdictions may seek to join the RACG by notifying the Chair who shall bring a motion to the RACG (either in or out of session). Decisions must be endorsed by members.

6. RACG meetings and decision making process

The host jurisdiction of the RACG will rotate on a two-yearly basis.

The RACG meets biannually. Notification of timing and venue will be given as early as practicable to assist travel arrangements.

Meetings will generally be a maximum of one day in length.

The meetings will not be open to the general public or media.

The RACG will operate informally on a consensus basis.

Where consensus cannot be achieved, matters may be determined by a simple majority, which should be recorded in the meeting minutes.

The RACG may initiate additional consultations and gather information from remote area operators to assist in the formulation of sound recommendations.

The RACG may set up Working Groups to carry out specific projects relating to road transport reforms and/or aligned with the objectives of the RACG, with implications to remote areas, through the contribution of members and their organisations or agencies.

7. Funding

The host agency is responsible for funding the RACG Chair and secretariat support.

All members of the RACG will meet their own costs in attending meetings and otherwise participating in RACG activities.

Where RACG undertakes direct management of projects, funding arrangements for these projects may be negotiated on a case-by-case basis with member organisations prior to the commencement of the project.

8. Review of RACG Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference must be reviewed when two years have lapsed since the last amendment date.

At the commencement of a jurisdiction taking on hosting responsibilities, the Chair may choose to review the Terms of Reference for amendment.

The RACG members may seek to review the Terms of Reference for amendment at any time.

Amended Terms of Reference must be endorsed by members.

9. Version control table

Table 2 Version control table

Version	Sections amended	Date published
10.0	<p>The following amendments were made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Updates to content added to the document: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table of contents, • Version control numbers, • Version control table added to the document. 2. Administration changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016 Map of the Remoteness Areas for Australia removed and replaced with the 2023 map, • Corrected links to ABS • Formatting of tables, headings, and fonts, • Document design, • Correction of Organisations details where a change of name has occurred. 	14 September 2023