MINISTER HEADS TO TRANSPORT COUNCIL MEETING

Infrastructure and Transport Minister Dr Chris Burns will join his national counterparts in Sydney on Friday for the 23rd Australian Transport Council meeting.

The Australian Transport Council will discuss the Council of Australian Governments National Transport Reform Agenda.

Dr Burns said he intended to raise the issue of the reduction maintenance funding for National Highways in the Northern Territory when he meets Federal Transport Minister Warren Truss.

“The Commonwealth is cutting maintenance funding for the Stuart, Victoria and Barkly highways from $18.2 million a year to just over $14 million a year,” Dr Burns said.

“This will clearly disadvantage the Territory. I will be presenting the case for a fair share of funding for these highways, particularly given the recent damage to the network caused by flooding.”

Dr Burns said he would also be relaying the views of the pastoral, mining and trucking industries regarding roads needs across the Territory.

The Australian Transport Council is a ministerial forum for Commonwealth, State and Territory consultations. It provides advice to governments on the coordination and integration of all transport and road policy issues at a national level.

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