



Representation & Advocacy

November 2014

Precast concrete to be added to Austroads National Prequalification System All members encouraged to provide feedback by Friday 19th December

Austroads have advised they will be extending the National Prequalification System for Civil (Road and Bridge) Construction Contractors, to include a specialised sub-category, Precast Concrete Products. They invited NP to provide feedback, before 9th December. At the Civil Products meeting in Sydney last week, it was decided that we should seek further information regarding their intention to implement the scheme in every state/territory and also to request an extension of time for feedback.

After an exchange of emails and phone calls we have been advised that a national response is desirable, and an extension of time has been granted, with us now needing to provide our feedback by mid-January. Therefore, we are now seeking comments from all NP members by Friday 19th December.

Although the document is 115 pages, the first 35 pages is the important part, as it describes the system. The remaining pages are references containing appendices and tables.

The System is based on four category details (page 18):

- Pretensioned (routine)
- Pretensioned reinforced components (complex)
- Precast Products, and
- Pipes and Poles.

As the System is intended to be a national system (noting that it is yet to be determined how each state/territory will participate), and because 'Precast Products' covers a wide range of elements (such as box culverts, traffic barriers, bridge parapets, pits, flat wall panels, noise barriers, wing walls, arches, piles), it is important that **all** members review the document.

There is a tendency when first confronted with such a system, to form the opinion that this is another government initiative that adds nothing to the manufacture of precast. NP has in the past, discussed the concept of precast manufacturers' certification, however has concluded that certification is too huge a task for us to take on at this point in time. This could be an opportunity for us to work with Austroads to determine a System to which all our members could comply – and thereby allow us to differentiate our members over non-members. Therefore, when reviewing the document, as well as looking at things that won't work or are not sympathetic to your manufacturing process, please can you also indicate any 'good' parts of the System?

Initially, if you will be providing a response, please would you indicate by return email to Peter Webb at technical@npcaa.com.au?

The following link will guide you to the documents on the Ausroads website
<http://www.austroads.com.au/news-events/item/199-new-prequalification-categories-proposed>.

Please will you send your comments to Peter by Friday 19th December 2014 to allow us enough time to review, compile a report for NP Board consideration and submit to Austroads. The feedback can simply be in the form of a PDF of any pages with your handwritten comments.

Thank you,

Sarah Bachmann and Peter Webb

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