

Geotechnical and Civil Construction Material Testing Summary of the 31st Accreditation Advisory Committee Meeting

This meeting took place on 12th May 2022 via Zoom.

Committee Membership

- Messers David Evans and Thomas Kovacs joined the committee since the last meeting.
- Mr Tony Sweetland retired from the committee.
- Mr Ian Stewart passed away in February 2022.
- Expressions of interest will be sought for someone with expertise in geotextiles.

Reports from Members

- There was discussion concerning the staffing challenges that laboratories face nationally and the difficulties of finding suitably qualified supervisory staff.
- Sustainability and use of recycled materials in road construction
- Difficulty with the assessment of sampling activities
- Lack of preparedness of laboratories for accreditation assessment visits.
- Challenges acquiring reference stone for facilities performing polished aggregate friction value tests were discussed.

Stakeholder Engagement

- MOUs with QTMR, TfNSW and DoT have been resigned.
- A new MOU with MRWA has been established.
- NATA continues to engage with industry bodies, regulators and specifiers.

Service Descriptors

- Service descriptors described in the NATA publication *Specific Accreditation Guidance – Scope of accreditation – service descriptors for infrastructure and asset integrity* are generally considered suitable and fit for purpose.

Miscellaneous Discussion

- A risk-based model for assessing annex facilities was discussed by the Committee. A draft of the risk assessment tool was discussed, and further improvements were suggested.

Precedents

- No new precedents were tabled at this meeting.

The next meeting is planned for late 2023.