

ARCOM BRIEF AUSTRALIAN RALLY COMMISSION MEETING TUESDAY 23RD MAY 2023

The Australian Rally Commission (ARCOM) convened for a video meeting on Tuesday 23 May 2023.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The ARCOM approved the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 December 2022.

RECORD OF OUT OF SESSION RESOLUTION

No matters or decisions were ratified between meetings.

MATTERS ARISING

Self-Scrutiny

It was discussed that self-scrutiny with respect to rallying will be a decision that this Commission will make as to whether it wants to adopt it moving forward.

The Administration have done a power of work exploring the concept of rolling out self-scrutiny across the sport on the basis it would ultimately be up to the organisers and/or championship promoters as to how they wanted to manage it.

A variation to the self-scrutiny model was proposed:

At the start of each year or before a competitor first enters a particular car in competition, that car is subject to a reasonable rigorous physical scrutiny process. And then provided that in the same car thereafter for the rest of that championship they can sign a declaration of conformity that nothing has changed.

The Commission expressed their concerns that the idea of a car can go through an entire year of competition without being checked.

Ultimately, a Decision Paper will need to be presented to ARCOM and should be drafted in consultation with Scott and his team.

Tarmac Rally Working Group Terms of Reference

The Tarmac Rally Working Group Committee (Committee) is appointed by ARCom to:

- a) Assist with the implementation of the recommendations made in the Targa Review Panel Report (Report) to the Board of Motorsport Australia.
- b) Make recommendations about Tarmac Rallying; and
- c) consider the general safety and conduct of Tarmac Rallying in Australia.

The Terms of Reference were adopted by the Commission.

Tarmac Rally Working Group (TRWG) Ratification of Appointments

The Tarmac Rally Working Group composition:

- a) TRWG Chair - Philippe Etienne
- b) TRWG Member – Bernie Webb (Tarmac Rally Competitor)
- c) TRWG Member – Rik Hagen (Motorsport Australia Medical Delegate)
- d) TRWG Member – Adrian Coppin (Motorsport Australia Delegate)
- e) TRWG Member – Jake Bryant (Motorsport Australia Executive Officer)
- f) TRWG Member – Scott McGrath (Motorsport Australia Technical Representative)
- g) TRWG Member – Al Vaughn (Independent Person / ARC Sporting Manager)
- h) TRWG Non-Voting Member – Ross Tapper (Tarmac Rally Promoter)
- i) TRWG Non-Voting Member – Tim Possingham (Tarmac Rally Promoter)
- j) TRWG Non-Voting Member – Mark Perry (Tarmac Rally Promoter)

Targa Review Panel Report

The ARCOM acknowledged the Targa Review Panel Report.

The Administration provided an update on the current progress of recommendations.

The Motorsport Australia Board endorsed to have all recommendations in place by July 1 2023. For Tarmac rallies to resume in the latter half of the year there needs to be an immediate focus on the licencing criteria, supported by the training program that is put in place, which ultimately will need to come back to the Commission before it's promulgated further. A set of Technical and Standing Regulations are currently being developed. A Tarmac Rally Organiser Requirements is being developed.

Performance Record, Scoring and Results

The Commission were tasked with clarifying the requirement of Rally Championship Round Events providing Competitor Road Cards and Control Cards for event competition management. Given COVID provided a chance not to use such cards, there are several events that aren't using them because there is less of a burden on organisers to find officials. It was determined to discuss this requirement with State Rally Panels as to the desire of removing competitor and control cards.

WRX Challenge Concept

The Commission discussed whether the new generation Subaru WRX has the potential for a one make rally class. The Commission agreed that further vehicle data is required, and this should be ascertained through testing. The Commission resolved to support the series and notes that a series that intends on replicating the RS Challenge is a good thing, particularly if it's supported by a manufacturer.

NRSR VG Art. 4.4 Energy Absorbing Safety Foam for Side Intrusion Protection

One of the recommendations of the Targa Review Panel Report was that any regulation prohibiting the installation of FIA approved door and side protection foam is deleted and the installation of such foam is highly recommended and will be mandatory for any competition category (other than TSD and 130kph speed limited) from 1 January 2024.

A significant amount of feedback was received noting that it's going to be problematic for a lot of cars. There are also issues about the availability in Australia of sufficient quantities of this foam and hence a Decision Paper was presented to ARCOM to determine whether the Commission should be making a recommendation to the board to defer the mandatory implementation date for that.

The ARCOM recommends the board that the commencement date for the mandatory fitment of FIA door foam in tarmac rally cars in the 160 Kph and 200 Kph categories be deferred until 1 January 2025, pending further investigation by ARCOM as to whether exemptions should be given to vehicles and the criteria for any such exemptions, and to afford ARCOM an opportunity to develop guidelines for the fitment of such foam. But in the meantime, the fitment of such foam be highly recommended.

Tarmac Vehicle Eligibility Committee Composition

The Commission approved the composition of the Tarmac Vehicle Eligibility Committee.

Tarmac Vehicle Eligibility Committee Composition:

- a) Scott McGrath
- b) Ben Afford
- c) Dean Herridge

NEXT MEETINGS

Teleconference conducted on Wednesday nights, commencing at 5:30pm Melbourne time.

- 13th June
- 20th September
- 22nd November