



[Road research register](#)

Austroads Council has supported the development of a road research register under the auspice of ARRB. The purpose of the register is to provide a single source of reliable and up to date information on road research, both in progress and recently completed, within the road industry. Details of projects being undertaken or funded by Austroads, or its members and observers, will form the majority of material in the database with some local government and industry records also included. The register will be accessible online and will aim to make researchers and practitioners aware of current research activity and provide contact details for further information. It is expected that the register will be operational by early 2008.

[Research coordination group](#)

Austroads is also supporting the establishment of a research coordination group which will guide the development of the research register. It will provide a forum for the sharing of information on research activities and identify opportunities for joint projects. The group will bring together representatives from Austroads member and observer organisations. Invitations have been issued to these organisations to nominate their representative and it is expected that the first meeting of the coordination group will be held in October.

[Austroads work programs](#)

The final work program of projects to be funded in 2007-08 was approved by the Austroads Council at its June meeting. Project categories include assets, capability, freight, network, registration and licensing, safety and technology. Details of the projects are available on the [Austroads website](#).

[World Road Congress](#)

The 2007 World Road Congress will be held in Paris, France, from 17 until 21 September. Austroads is now in the final stages of preparation for the Congress. There are over 60 delegates from Australia and New Zealand registered to attend, including three Australian state or territory ministers. A welcome function is being held for the Australasian delegation at the Australian Embassy in Paris on the evening prior to the Congress opening. Austroads is involved in other activities including a national committee display, contribution to some of the technical sessions, a special session on the operation of heavy vehicles and participation in the historical symposium.

An information package has been prepared by Austroads for delegates who have expressed an interest in attending and can be downloaded from the [Austroads website](#).

If you are planning to attend the Congress and have not as yet advised the Austroads national office, please do so as soon as possible so you are included in the arrangements for the Australasian delegates.

[World Road Association \(PIARC\) technical committees](#)

In each edition of the newsletter, Austroads aims to provide a brief overview about some of the work of World Road Association (PIARC) technical committees.

World Road Association member countries are invited to nominate representatives to participate in technical committees which work on various subjects in the road and road transport field to produce

reports based on best practice and make recommendations to road agencies. The terms of reference of the various technical committees are available on the [World Road Association website](#).

This edition of the newsletter looks at work of the technical committee on Road System Economics.

Road System Economics technical committee

Austrroads representative - Ian Melsom, Land Transport New Zealand

The Road System Economics technical committee has investigated and reported on road system economics within an integrated transport system, the effects of road pricing on the socio-economy, and road project evaluation frameworks. This was conducted over a four year period as part of the work program. There was a focus on three topics including:

- identifying project evaluation methods for roads with inter-modal effects and for projects in multi-modal systems
- policy and practice for funding and road pricing with equity in mind
- identifying project evaluation methods that capture the diversity of road benefits and take into account regional characteristics and social development needs.

The work on inter-modal effects and multi-modal systems involved gathering information from 26 member countries plus the World Bank and other agencies, to add to the information available for Austrroads members and contained in the Australian Transport Council's 'National Guidelines for Transport System Management in Australia'.

Monetising social and environmental impacts heavily references the research project being undertaken on behalf of the European Commission called 'Harmonised European Approaches for Transport Costing and Project Assessment' (HEATCO). This was a project that looked at the practices undertaken in 25 European countries when considering social and environmental impacts, the most relevant of which were air quality, noise and global warming, all of which were recognised to be extremely site specific. The report produced by the committee combines the information in the European HEATCO report plus the feedback the committee received from some of the PIARC member countries, and makes recommendations for future work.

The committee has also produced two articles that have been published in Routes/Roads magazine; in edition 325 '*a dynamic traffic model for the economic analysis of congestion*'; and in edition 327 '*road pricing, financing, regulation and equity: a summary of the PIARC seminar in Cancun, Mexico*'.

Two further reports are awaiting publication and these are '*recommendations for users in the application of multi-modal appraisal systems*' and '*report from the Tokyo seminar on project evaluation methodologies*'.

The committee will deliver presentations on its work at the World Congress during the technical session on Wednesday 19 September, plus it will contribute to special session 8 on 'managing congestion' on Thursday 20 September.

For more information on work of the committee please contact Ian Melsom at ian.melsom@landtransport.govt.nz

Outstanding service award

An Austrroads outstanding service award was awarded to Rod Frisby, the Registrar of Motor Vehicles at the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure, South Australia, for his contribution to Austrroads over an extended period. In 1994 Rod represented South Australia at the inaugural meeting of the then Austrroads/NRTC Registration and Licensing reference group. He has been a strong advocate for jurisdictions to actively contribute to national projects and made an invaluable contribution to almost all of the significant R&L national reforms since the national road transport reform process commenced in 1991.

[Publications](#)

Optimum Use of Granular Bases: Material Selection for Detailed Performance Evaluation (AP-T85/07)

This report provides data relating to laboratory repeated load tri-axial test (RLT) results to field performance and to develop procedures for incorporation of RLT test results into performance-based specifications and mechanistic pavement design for unbound granular materials. Base materials nominated by Austroads member authorities were tested using both current empirical specification tests for material qualities and advanced laboratory test methods for mechanical properties (including resilient modulus, permanent strain and shear strength). It was found that the materials covered a large range of qualities in terms of source rock, grading and fine properties. The use of materials varies with their quality from lightly to heavily trafficked roads and from drier inland areas to wet coastal areas. Results of resilient modulus and permanent strain obtained from RLT testing indicated that the material rankings based on these parameters were not consistent with the classifications based on material qualities. Four materials were recommended for testing using accelerated loading. A copy of the report is available from the [Austroads publications website](#).

Traffic Incident Management: Best Practice (AP-R304/07)

The Austroads Improving Traffic Incident Management project involves a review of traffic incident management in major urban regions across Australia and New Zealand. This report provides a brief overview of all aspects of traffic incident management, including planning, institutional issues, evaluation and performance review and capability development, as well as all operational aspects, including detection, verification, response, site management, investigation and clearance, traffic management and traveller information. It identifies recommended practice that may be suitable for wider application. A copy of the report is available from the [Austroads publications website](#).

Notification service – ‘RoadWatch’

RoadWatch is an email based service that provides users of the Austroads publications website with a customised notification alert. Subscribers can nominate to receive alerts about specific publications and/or subject areas, or all publications and subject areas. They are advised by email of any new publications that are released, or changes to existing publications, relevant to their specific areas of interest. For more information, or to register for RoadWatch, visit the [Austroads publications website](#).

Land Transport New Zealand

The following reports were recently published by Land Transport New Zealand:

- Light/medium commercial vehicle use in four urban centres.
- ITS environmental monitoring and forecasting: International trends and experiences.
- Clay mineralogy of modified marginal aggregates.
- Benchmarking pavement performance between Transit's LTPP & CAPTIF programmes.

For more information about research conducted by Land Transport New Zealand, or to obtain a copy of any of the reports, visit the [Land Transport New Zealand website](#).

Investigation into the relationship between vehicle colour and crash risk

The Monash University Accident Research Centre undertook a study to assess the relationship between vehicle colour and crash risk through the analysis of outcomes described in mass crash data reported to police in two Australian states. Results of the analysis identified a clear, statistically significant, relationship between vehicle colour and crash risk. Compared to white vehicles, a number of colours were associated with higher crash risk. Comparison of results between the two states analysed suggested that vehicle colour also has an association with crash severity, with lower visibility colours having higher risks of more severe crashes. A copy of the report is [available here](#) in PDF format.

Patterns of bicycle use

The Centre for Automotive Safety Research at the University of Adelaide has released a report that explores the characteristics of bicycle crashes in South Australia and how those characteristics

changed from 1981 to 2004. In 1981, cyclist casualties were mostly children and teenagers. In 2004, cyclist casualties were mostly spread across the age range from 16 to 49. Child cyclist casualties reached a maximum between 1982 and 1987 and have fallen sharply since. Adult cyclist casualties reached a maximum between 1987 and 1990 and then fell. The three main sections of the report tabulate data for cyclist casualties aged between 5 and 15 for the period from 2001 to 2004, data for cyclist casualties aged 16 years and over for the period 2001 to 2004, and trends over the period from 1981 to 2004. A copy of the report is [available here](#) in PDF format.

[Calendar of forthcoming events](#)

ARRB knowledge transfer workshops in 2007

ARRB develops and delivers training workshops and explanatory seminars, many of which are based on Austroads publications, using internal technical experts, specialist consultants and road authority staff.

In 2007 ARRB will be running a series of workshops throughout Australia and New Zealand covering subjects such as intersections at grade, roundabouts, road network management, traffic engineering practice, community road safety and bridge inspections.

For detailed information about times, dates and locations visit the [ARRB website](#).

International Public Works Conference

26 - 30 August 2007, Cairns

The conference is organised by the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA). The program will aim to provide maximum opportunities for professional development and learning while incorporating interaction and networking with other delegates. A day will be dedicated to providing technical tours around the Cairns region.

More information is available from: www.ipwea.org.au/events

Road Safety Research, Policing and Education Conference

17 - 19 October 2007, Melbourne

The theme of this conference is 'The Way Ahead' and will focus on the application of road safety research at practical and local levels into the future. The key objectives are to share information about the latest road safety research and initiatives; identify the best examples of translating research into action; and identify key areas for action in research and policy for the future. For more information visit: www.roadsafetyconference2007.com.au

ARRB conference

30 July – 1 August 2008, Adelaide

ARRB conferences promote and facilitate discussion about issues relevant to the transport industry, and new research being undertaken on the local and international scene. Conferences are held every two years throughout Australasia, and involve local and international delegates. The next ARRB conference will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre. Discussions will be held about local and international research and case studies which provide innovative and practical solutions to current and emerging issues. More information is available from: www.arrb.com.au/conferences

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Contributions for future newsletters are always welcome. Please send via email to the Communications Manager, David Armstrong, at darmstrong@austrroads.com.au

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