

Australia

Location:

Oceania: continent between the Indian Ocean and the South Pacific Ocean

Climate:

Generally arid to semi-arid; temperate in south and east; tropical in the north

Population:

19.7 million

Currency:

Australian dollar (AUD)

GDP: (2001/02)

Australian economy = € 403 billion

Total area:

7,692,024 sq km

Capital:

Canberra



Australian Roads

Public roads in Australia exceed 810,000 km in length. Of this, approximately 40% are sealed and 60% not sealed.

Road Type	Length (km)	Lane km (km)	Travel (million veh-km)
National highway	18 620	41 507	24 206
Rural arterial	94 854	188 419	36 925
Urban arterial	12 398	37 364	67 534
Rural local	600 725	1 196 654	10 825
Urban local	84 845	169 502	31 194
Total	811 443	1 633 448	170 684

Road Length by Road Type and Travel Comparisons — Australia — 1999
Source: State Road Authorities unpublished data

In 1999, vehicles travelled over 22 billion kilometres on the National Highway System. 82% of traffic on the system was cars and 18% was heavy vehicles, comprising 6% rigid trucks and coaches and 12% articulated trucks. This pattern of traffic contrasts with the total axle loading, according to the contribution to pavement loading imposed by different vehicle types. Even though most of the vehicle-kilometres travelled are by car, their contribution to pavement loading (0.03%) is extremely low when compared with trucks (99.97%).

In Australia, the Federal government is responsible for the 18,620 km National Highway System. State and Territory Government agencies are generally responsible for the funding of state highways and main roads. Local governments are responsible for funding and managing local roads, except in some remote areas.

Strategic priorities and emerging issues

Throughout 2002 and 2003, Austroads Council has spent time determining action in relation to strategic priorities in consultation with stakeholders. This was done to develop the forthcoming Austroads Strategic Plan for 2004-2007. Some of the strategic priorities currently identified are:

- Improving road safety
- Facilitating more efficient movement of freight
- Traffic management/congestion
- Asset management
- Improving environmental sustainability
- Effective community engagement
- Information management
- Project delivery
- Impact of mode shift to rail
- Security
- Infrastructure financing
- Road transport and economic development

AUSTROADS

PIARC Involvement

Australia is a National Member of PIARC through the Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services. There are sixteen collective members in Australia, which include all Australian State and Territory transport authorities.

Austroads is the association of Australian and New Zealand road transport and traffic authorities. Austroads provides a forum for road authorities in Australia and New Zealand to work together to promote national uniformity and harmony, eliminate unnecessary duplication, and identify and promote improved practice.

Austroads International Committee (PIARC) is recognised by the World Road Association (PIARC) and the Australian Government as the National Correspondent Organisation for PIARC in Australia and is charged with managing Australia's involvement, and coordinating it with that of New Zealand.

Austroads Membership

Austroads members are the six State and two Territory road transport and traffic authorities and the Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services in Australia, the Australian Local Government Association and Transit New Zealand.

Austroads aims to provide strategic direction for the integrated development, management and operation of the Australian and New Zealand road system. The Austroads mechanism and network enables the involvement of all Australian road agencies in a coordinated way. Through Austroads, Australia's and New Zealand's PIARC activities are fully integrated into the Austroads work program and contribute significantly to the achievement of Austroads strategic objectives.

Austroads undertakes the development and management of a project-based work program spread over the following areas: road design, construction, maintenance and operation, sustainable and integrated transport, intelligent transport technology, access and mobility issues, traffic management and engineering, pavement and bridge technology, asset management and productivity issues, and road safety.

Austroads is recognised for its technical manuals in roads and traffic engineering and recently made freely available all of its research-type reports in electronic format from its website.

Austroads publications on the web:

http://www.austroads.com.au/austroads_v2/index.htm?public

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Austroads member authority web sites – Australia

Roads and Traffic Authority New South Wales
<http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au>

VicRoads
<http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au>

Department of Main Roads Queensland
<http://www.mainroads.qld.gov.au>

Main Roads Western Australia
<http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au>

Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment, Northern Territory
<http://www.nt.gov.au/ipe/dtw>

Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources, Tasmania
<http://www.transport.tas.gov.au>

Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services
<http://www.dotars.gov.au>

Transport South Australia
<http://www.transport.sa.gov.au>

ACT Department of Urban Services
<http://www.act.gov.au/urbanservices>

Australian Local Government Association
<http://www.alga.com.au>

Austroads member authority web sites – New Zealand

Transit New Zealand
<http://www.transit.govt.nz>