



Government of Western Australia
Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Minister for Transport Media Statement

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Attention: News Editor/Chief of Staff

Research to protect and enhance the State's roads underway

Transport Minister Troy Buswell said today that operations at the new Western Australian Pavement Asset Research Centre (WAPARC) are underway.

"WAPARC is a centre of excellence for pavement asset management in WA, providing a sustainable level of critical experience supporting Main Roads, Local Government and industry," Mr Buswell said.

"The centre brings together the expertise and equipment of a number of key organisations in an effort to increase the amount of research undertaken in the area of pavement, and to ensure sustainability of knowledge in a relatively specialised but critical area.

"This research is imperative considering roads are such a significant asset for the State and valued at \$55billion*.

"WAPARC's research will also complement national standards and Austroads' activities and seek opportunities to combine research efforts with other States and bodies.

"The State Government through Main Roads is committed to working with Curtin University of Technology, University of Western Australia, Western Australia Local Government Association (WALGA), ARRB Group and PATREC to protect and enhance the future of WA roads.

"This is another fine example of specialists from both the private and public sector working together to ultimately benefit the people of WA, which is very encouraging.

"A formal collaborative agreement between WAPARC's members was signed in June and Geoff Jameson, Chief Scientist for ARRB Group was appointed the WAPARC Director for a term of up to three years."

The State Government has provided \$2.45M in initial funding for the centre. The current agreement will see the centre operate for the next three years with the possibility for extension following a review.

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Speaking points:

The following is a summary of initial research projects being considered:

- Optimal pavement configuration with asphalt wearing courses;
- Assessment process for road user charges for over mass permit vehicles;
- Design procedure for foam bituminous stabilized pavements;
- Process for assessing heavy indivisible loads;
- Review of pavement condition performance criteria;
- Characteristics of WA asphalt mixes;
- Characteristics of WA asphalt mixes incorporating recycled asphalt pavement;
- Factors resulting in stripping of WA asphalts;
- Validation and specification for warm mix asphalt;
- Validation of proposed Austroads finite element design model;
- Endurance strain limits for asphalt; and
- Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for whole of life cycle cost.

The combined State and Local Government road network is a vital and extensive asset for WA covering over 146,000 kilometres, with an estimated value of **\$55**billion.

That's how much it would cost to replace the roads we currently have in today's dollars, so it's an asset that needs to be preserved.

Main Roads, WA's State road authority is one of the largest geographically spread road agencies in the world, covering 2.5 million square kilometres.

WA people rely on WA roads every day, that's why it is so important we put measures into place that will protect and enhance our roads now and well into the future.

*\$39 billion for State roads and \$16 billion for local roads