



## New Damage Assessment Criteria for the Classification of Statutory Write-offs

Australia is making important changes to the way it manages written-off vehicles (WOVs) to improve the safety of repaired write-offs and combat the activities of profit-motivated vehicle thieves and fraudsters who try to manipulate related industry and government practices. This guide introduces new damage assessment criteria to ensure that WOVS which should not be repaired on safety grounds are consistently identified and appropriately classified as suitable only for dismantling or scrap. The guide is intended to be used by insurance personnel and other notifiers who are required to classify WOVS for regulatory purposes.

Based on expert field trials the new criteria will shift around one in every three vehicles currently classified as repairable into the statutory write-off (SWO) class.

This publication can be downloaded free or purchased in hard copy [here](#).

More information on the development of the guide, the timelines for adoption in each state and territory and answers to frequently asked questions is available from the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council web site by clicking [here](#).

## Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020

The Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 was launched in May 2011 by the United Nations. This initiative with a decade long focus highlights the "goal to stabilize and then reduce the forecast level of road traffic fatalities around the world by increasing activities conducted at the national, regional and global levels".

The Australian government and state and territory road agencies and Austroads are supporting the Decade of Action, with a number of initiatives both nationally and throughout the Asia Pacific region. In support of the Decades objective of increasing awareness of road safety, Austroads is making its Guide to Road Safety available to interested countries and government bodies.

For more information on these initiatives please go [here](#).

## World Road Congress – Mexico 2011

The World Road Congress is being held in Mexico City from 26 to 30 September 2011.

The theme of the Congress is Mobility, Sustainability and Development. High profile key note speakers will be in attendance and ministers from all 118 member countries have been invited to participate in the Congress.

In conjunction with the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020, the Congress will have a strong focus on Road Safety. It will be a forum aimed at assembling ideas and experiences from across the globe to enhance Road Safety innovation into the future.

Information is available from the World Road Association [website](#). Anyone planning to attend the Congress should contact Austroads by email to [austroads@austroads.com.au](mailto:austroads@austroads.com.au) for assistance with registration and accommodation bookings and to be advised of arrangements for the Australasian delegation including a reception at the Australian Embassy.

## New Austroads Publications

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### Accessing Austroads publications

These and other Austroads technical and research reports are available **free** as PDFs from the Austroads website [www.austroads.com.au](http://www.austroads.com.au). Please sign up for [RoadWatch](#) to be alerted of all Austroads publications as they become available.

### **Performance-based Specification for Electronic Work Diary and Heavy Vehicle Speed Monitoring (AP-R386-11)**

This report presents the performance-based specification for an electronic work diary and heavy vehicle speed monitoring as directed by the Australian Transport Council (ATC) at its November 2008 meeting. The ATC directed the immediate development of an Australian performance-based specification for electronic heavy vehicle speed and driver fatigue systems, enhancing the use of in-vehicle telematics and adding value to the Intelligent Access Program (IAP). Through the direction of the ATC, Austroads requested that Transport Certification Australia (TCA) undertake a study to develop a draft performance-based specification for the fatigue management (essentially the electronic work diary) and monitoring of heavy vehicle speed.

### **Pavement Wear Assessment Method for PBS Vehicles (AP-R372-11)**

The National Transport Commission (NTC) and Austroads are developing Performance Based Standards (PBS) which will augment prescriptive regulations for heavy vehicle mass, dimensions and configuration. Austroads and NTC commissioned ARRB Group to progress a transparent national Pavement Wear Assessment Method (PWAM) that will improve road freight productivity by providing more certain access and limit the stress on the pavement layers below the surface of the road for use with the Pavement Vertical Loading Standard (PVLS).

### **Performance Requirements for Bitumen Sprayers (AP-T181-11)**

A significant factor contributing to the establishment of Australia's large network of surfaced roads has been the successful application of sprayed sealing technology, including the selection of treatments, design of the treatments and application procedures. Several recent Austroads projects have addressed the aspects of the selection and design of sprayed seal treatments and the outcomes published.

One outcome of the Austroads Sprayed Seal Design Project is AP:T68/06 Update of the Austroads Seal Design Method (Austroads 2006d) which includes improvements to the design of rates of application of binder and aggregate.

### **Second National Survey of Australian Bitumens (AP-T182-11)**

This report is the second in a series which examines the properties of Australian bitumens from around Australia. Thirty-one bitumens from around Australia were subjected to a range of test procedures. These included viscosity measurement at a range of temperatures, durability testing, fractionation according to chemical properties, determination of softening point and penetration, and the calculation of various derived parameters. Almost half the bitumens failed to comply with specifications.

### **The Influence of Multiple Axle Loads on Pavement Performance: Interim Findings (AP-T184-11)**

This research study investigates – using a combination of current research, laboratory characterisation and field trials – improved methods for assessing the pavement damage caused by different multiple axle group loads, and to develop a framework that can be used to quantify this pavement damage for use in the Austroads flexible pavement design processes.

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## **A Laboratory Study of the Influence of Multiple Axle Loads on Performance of a Cement Treated Material - Interim Report (AP-T185-11)**

This report details a laboratory investigation of the effects of different multiple-axle load groups on the fatigue performance of cement treated materials. In the Austroads flexible pavement design process the performance of cement treated materials is expressed as their resistance to flexural fatigue due to application of repeated loads.

## **Testing Plan to Examine the Effects of Multiple Axle Loads on Asphalt Fatigue Using Four-point Beam Tests (AP-T186-11)**

This report presents a testing plan to examine the effect that multiple axle group loads (e.g. tandem, triaxles, etc.) have on the flexural fatigue performance of asphalt, and forms a component of long term Austroads project work. The testing plan proposed uses laboratory test equipment to simulate the application of multiple axle loads on laboratory prepared asphalt specimens.

## **The Influence of Multiple Axle Loads on the Performance of an Unbound Granular Pavement under Accelerated Loading: Construction of Test Pavements (AP-T187-11)**

Recognising the importance to pavement designers, asset managers and policy makers of an improved understanding of the relationship between different multiple axle group loads (single, tandem, triaxles, etc.) and road pavement performance, Austroads initiated a research project to improve the understanding of these loads on Australian flexible pavement types.

In September 2008 a test pavement was constructed at the current accelerated loading facility (ALF) site in Dandenong South, Melbourne. The test pavement is composed of a 300 mm thick crushed rock base overlying a 400 mm layer of imported clay subgrade. Sufficient pavement area was constructed to allow the future testing of 12 experiments with the ALF machine, with each experiment having the standard 12 m length used by the machine.

This report details the construction of the test pavement, and collates an extensive amount of data collected during the construction works.

### **Austroads Publication feedback:**

If you would like to provide feedback on any of the Austroads publications you can do this by clicking [here](#).

### **Mapping previous Austroads publications to the new:**

As a consequence of the new guides being released there is a number of our previous publications which have been superseded, including the Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice series. To keep track of these changes and to know which parts/guides replace the previous guides we have developed a table that allows you to cross reference the previous publications with what new publication replaces it. Please click [here](#) or visit the Austroads website.

## **World Road Association work on Dealing with Urban Congestion**

By Phil Lawes, Department for Transport, Energy & Infrastructure South Australia

The World Road Association (WRA) Technical Committee (TC) B.2 conducted a seminar in conjunction with TC B.1 (Good Governance of Road Administrations) on 25-27 April. Titled "*Roads & Highways: Optimising Services for the Customer*", the seminar was organised in conjunction with the Ministry of Works Malaysia, the Public Works Department Malaysia, the Malaysian Highway Authority, and the Intelligent Transport System Association of Malaysia. Mr Lawes was a panellist for the session titled "*Management of Congested Areas: Reducing Recurring and Non-Recurring Congestion*". The eighth meeting of the WRA Technical Committee (TC) B.2 was held following the seminar on 27-28 April 2011. The purpose of the meeting was to review the progress of work programs for each Working Group for 2008-2011, and plan for the upcoming World Congress in Mexico.

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The objective of the seminar was to present concepts and a framework towards enhancing service levels for road network users, as well as the establishment of feedback loops in measuring or assessing road users' satisfaction. Focusing on customer service, the seminar provided an insight on current best practices internationally in good governance and road administrations (customer relationship and satisfaction), management of congested areas (pricing and tolling) and management of road corridors (land use and transportation). Involving 523 participants from 28 countries, the highly successful seminar involved the presentation of 16 papers, three panel sessions, two workshops, and two technical visits.

The TC B.2 meeting focused on planning the committee's involvement in the upcoming WRA World Congress in Mexico, as well as progressing the committee's work plan. TC B.2 has collected over 50 case studies from around the world of measures used to address urban congestion. The findings of these case studies will be documented in a report by the committee and presented at the Mexico Congress. The committee is also progressing online versions of the WRA's ITS Handbook and Network Operations Handbook. A report is also being prepared on the activities of the WRA/FISITA Joint Task Force. FISITA is the International Federation of Automotive Engineering Societies, and the task force was established in recognition of the advent of connected vehicle technology (vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure) creating issues and opportunities for both road operator and the automotive industry.

The technical visits associated with the seminar provided a unique perspective on the progress being achieved in Kuala Lumpur in addressing urban congestion, while also highlighting ongoing challenges. The new Terminal Bersepadu Selatan (TBS) multi-modal public transport interchange in Kuala Lumpur is a 6 level, state-of-the-art facility that caters for buses serving the southern part of Malaysia and Singapore (19 departure bays and 18 arrival bays). Linked to the adjacent KTM Komuter, Express Rail Link, and Rapid train systems, it provides effective integration between the public transport modes. While located outside of the city centre, the rail services provide effective connectivity for passengers, and it removes all the buses from city streets thereby reducing congestion.

Papers at the seminar relating to urban congestion provided valuable information regarding measures that have been adopted to address the growing problem at various locations across the globe. The information within the case studies collected by the committee and sessions at the seminar demonstrates that Australia is at the leading edge of the development of some measures (e.g. managed motorways).

## **New Austroads Program Managers**

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Julie Holmes has recently been appointed Director Registration and Licensing at the Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure, South Australia and has taken over as the new Program Manager for the Registration and Licensing Program.

David Reed from the Department of Transport and Main Roads Queensland, has taken over as the Safety Program Manager.

## **Austroads Bridge Conference**

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The conference "Sustainable Bridges: The Thread of Society" held from 31 October to 5 November will showcase the achievements from many of the world leaders in the specialist field of bridge engineering.

The conference program includes international speakers, 36 concurrent sessions with 123 oral presentations, challenging topics and workshops complimented by a variety of interesting social events and ending with a technical tour on Saturday 5 November 2011. A conference program can be located [here](#).

Some 50 exhibitors will feature the most up to date information, products and technology available. The exhibition is set to be the primary networking arena for delegates, sponsors and exhibitors.

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If you would like to register for the conference or become an exhibitor please visit [here](#). Take advantage of the Early Bird Registrations - a saving of \$300 per full registration before 22 August 2011.

## Asia – Pacific Cycle Congress 2011

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The inaugural Asia-Pacific Cycle Congress will be held in Brisbane, Queensland from 18-21 September 2011 with the support of the Queensland Government. The congress will provide a valuable forum for cycling experts, researchers and enthusiasts from around the world to share expertise and develop effective methods for raising the profile of cycling.

The congress will feature top-tier international keynote speakers and industry specialists presenting on themes of cycleway planning, innovation and infrastructure; cycling promotion and travel behaviour change; culture, community and choices.

For more information on the event please visit [here](#).

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The newsletter is developed and distributed every two months.

Contributions for future newsletters are always welcome. Please send via email to the Communications Manager at:

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