ARRB Group Ltd (ARRB) provides research, consulting and information services to the road and transport industry. ARRB applies research outcomes to develop equipment that collects road and traffic information and software that assists with decision making across road networks. ARRB is the leading provider of road research and best practice workshops in Australia.

Our vision
Building on 50 years of road and transport research.

Our focus
ARRB Group has over 50 years developed the resources to examine issues of national importance.

Key strategies include:
• conducting multi-disciplinary programs of research on national priorities for Austroads.
• providing consulting services for members and the industry
• creating a hub for road industry knowledge and experience which provides certainty and reliability in information
• expanding knowledge sharing and transfer activities to meet industry needs
• developing and commercialising innovative technology and systems.

Our expertise
ARRB Group’s capabilities cover the full spectrum of road transport operations including:
• materials, pavement and concrete design and testing
• transport policy, operations and economics
• infrastructure asset management
• bridge management and evaluation
• equipment manufacture and data collection services
• road safety
• traffic engineering and road design
• heavy vehicle testing and simulation
• parking
• climate change
• land transport resources and information
• knowledge transfer and capability building.

Our clients
Our customers include:
• all state and territory road authorities within Australia
• national governments in Australia and New Zealand
• local government including local councils and associations
• state governments
• national bodies and associations
• Australian and international aid agencies
• transport and mining companies
• private and engineering consultancies
• major construction firms
• defence, water, parks and wildlife government departments.

Quality and innovation
ARRB Group has over many years developed the resources to examine issues of national importance. Some of ARRB’s initiatives include:

Industry and capability development
This includes mentoring of technical staff towards their aspirations and chosen career goals, as a means of attracting and retaining the best talent. It also relates to the development of the research program, in which priorities of member authorities and other stakeholders are recognised, knowledge gaps identified, future needs assessed and programs of work undertaken to meet those needs.

ARRB Academy
The establishment of the ARRB Academy is a key part of the new strategic direction. Its function is to be the focal point for activities aimed at maintaining excellence in research, knowledge and collaboration. It will concentrate on ensuring quality in three main areas; people, processes and products.

Scientific rigour
Scientific rigour is imparted through ARRB Group’s research methods and national technical leaders in key areas of expertise to ensure high quality outputs.

The four factors which the system focuses on are:
• Completeness – answering the right question and all of the right question.
• Foundation – the quality of literature-based evidence in the work.
• Analysis – appropriateness and completeness of the experimental design and execution, and documentation of limitations to the method and/or scope.
• Robustness – the extent to which limitations of the findings are documented, and ensuring recommendations flow from analysis.

ARRB Group’s history
Formerly the ‘Australian Road Research Board’, ARRB Group was formed in 1960 and incorporated in 1965. The members of the company are the state, territory and federal government road agencies in Australia, who established the organisation as a means of cooperating to undertake research of national importance, which they could not justify carrying out individually. New Zealand and the Local Government Association joined as members of ARRB in further cementing the value of the organisation to the industry.

During the 1960s, the staff of the Board operated out of an annex of the Country Roads Board, Kew (now VicRoads), located in what is now a tram terminus. In the early 1970s, work began on the Australian Road Research Centre (ARRC) on land located in Vermont South. The site was previously an apple orchard and to this day, the last remaining apple trees from the orchard can be found in the north-west corner of the Vermont South site (the apple trees are included in the heritage overlay of the site). In 1972, staff moved into the custom built premises.

In 2010, the Vermont South site continues to be ARRB Group’s headquarters, with other offices located in Perth, Brisbane, Sydney and a new office recently opened in Adelaide. We also have a Luxmoore Parking Consulting office in East Melbourne, along with international offices in Dubai (United Arab Emirates), Jakarta (Indonesia) and Xiamen (China).
In May 2003 the Austroads Council approved the establishment of a Technical Research Program with a commitment of core research funding to ARRB. Significantly, the primary objective was to rebuild expertise and experience within ARRB which would then be available to Austroads members to assist in responding to current and emerging issues.

The following four core areas of research within the Technical Research program were identified. The key criterion was that they were areas where ARRB was the key source of significant research expertise in the region:

- **Asset Management** research involves development of decision tools to assist road agencies. Key areas include assessment of the effects of incremental increases in axle group loads on the road network in terms of road condition and road agency costs, predicting dynamic wheel loading and its effects on the network and long-term pavement performance monitoring to develop consistent performance models.

- **Bituminous Surfacings** research aims to improve the ability of road agencies to manage their surfacings assets in response to the emerging freight task and community expectations. The program includes work on optimising the performance of bituminous binders, sprayed seals and asphalt surfacings including use of polymer modified binders.

- **Pavement Technology** research continues to focus on improving understanding of the response of flexible pavements to changing vehicle loads and new-generation heavy vehicles. Emphasis is being placed on unbound granular pavement materials.

- **Road Safety Engineering** research focuses on ways to improve the road environment in order to reduce road safety risk as part of the Safe Systems approach. A number of projects covering areas of road safety and speed and roadside safety are underway. Other projects include road safety engineering measures to address fatigue, improving safety of heavy vehicles in urban areas and program development and trials of a national risk assessment model.

This research is critical as Austroads members are responsible for road assets valued at over $200 billion with recurrent expenditure of over $6 billion on maintenance.

The program continues to develop and sustain a national capability for technical research and knowledge so that this can be available to meet the future requirements of the Australasian road industry.

Results of the research programs are disseminated through numerous workshops and training courses, and the presentation of papers at international and Australasian conferences.

In addition to the four core areas, ARRB also undertakes Austroads research in the areas of network operations; road user behaviour; traffic management; freight registration and licensing.

ARRB hosts an online road research register designed to foster knowledge of research activities and provide the opportunity for collaboration and non-duplication. Visit [www.roadresearch.com.au](http://www.roadresearch.com.au) for more information.
ARRB applies the knowledge gained through its research activities into consulting projects, workshops and publications. Our clients benefit by accessing this knowledge for complex and multi-disciplinary solutions to road and transport problems.

ARRB responds to development of research programs, public tenders and requests for technical advice. We work closely with our clients and industry to produce useful, innovative and practical solutions. ARRB Group has highly experienced and qualified staff including engineers, scientists, programmers and technical support. ARRB Group’s multi-disciplinary expertise covers a range of road and transport-related businesses aligning with the National Transport Policy Framework.

To reflect this ARRB has structured its research and technical consulting operations into:

• **Congestion, freight and productivity**: transport network, transport planning, economics, freight and logistics, innovative heavy vehicle solutions, environment and sustainability.

• **Safe Systems**: road safety engineering, road user behaviour, road design, traffic management and safe vehicles.

• **Sustainable Infrastructure Science/Technology**: pavement design and performance, pavement construction/maintenance and materials technology.

• **Sustainable Infrastructure Management**: innovative inventory solutions (including data collection), infrastructure assessment, bridge management, infrastructure maintenance and local roads.

The National Transport Policy Framework highlights the following priority areas and challenges:

1. Economic framework for an efficient transportation marketplace
2. Infrastructure planning and investment
3. Capacity constraints and supply chain performance
4. Urban congestion
5. Environment and energy (including climate change)
6. Safety and security
7. Strategic research/technology
8. Workforce planning and skills.

ARRB has been developing innovative road, traffic and transport products for over 25 years. During this time we have gained a world-wide reputation for the delivery of quality products and services, designed specifically to solve many different road and transport related problems.

ARRB’s role as the central research facility for the Australian government road authorities demands that we maintain a continuous improvement program for our products, software packages and associated services. ARRB’s main area of product development includes:

- Pavement profiling systems
- Digital imaging systems for pavement defect evaluation
- Digital imaging systems for asset inventory applications
- Road geometry and mapping systems
- Network Survey Vehicles
- Software and data analysis tools for pavement management, asset management and safety analysis applications

Though our association with other leading international manufacturers of monitoring equipment, we are also able to supply world class products for pavement strength testing, skid resistance and reflectivity applications.

ARRB also maintains a fleet of over 10 dedicated survey vehicles, with various configurations of ARRB’s own Hawkeye 2000 survey equipment. This allows for a varied choice of data collection services that can be tailored to suit customer’s needs, from project level survey requirements, to larger network surveys. These include pavement condition surveys, asset management surveys, road safety assessments and pavement strength testing.

The parking division of ARRB, Luxmoore Parking Consulting (Luxmoore) is a wholly owned, specialist division of ARRB Group Ltd that caters to the increasing demand for independent specialist parking consultancy services.

The key objective of Luxmoore is to provide professional and practical advice to developers, operators and owners of any type of parking facility.
ARRB provides opportunities to access the latest research, knowledge and expertise

Knowledge transfer
Training to further develop the skills and knowledge of transport professionals plays a key role in keeping up with the changing needs of the industry. ARRB is the premier supplier of high level workshops within Australia and New Zealand. Delegates will hear about best practice and are provided with opportunities to network with industry colleagues.

Please visit www.arrb.com.au/workshops for the latest information on Knowledge Transfer workshops or email training@arrb.com.au

ARRB conferences
ARRB runs biennial conferences providing a forum to present and discuss the latest research and best practice across the road and transport industry. In recognition of its breadth of experience, ARRB Group is delighted to offer two consecutive conferences in 2010, the 2nd International Sprayed Sealing conference and the 24th ARRB conference.

Please visit the ARRB conferences 2010 website www.arrb.com.au/conferences for the latest information or email confadmin@arrb.com.au

ARRB website
The ARRB website has recently been re-launched to provide you with the latest information regarding the road and transport industry, including information packages, latest news, products and services and forthcoming workshops and events.

Please visit www.arrb.com.au

MG Lay Library
Founded in 1962, ARRB’s library today takes a lead role in national and international land transport information provision and knowledge sharing. It is recognised as a leading transport library in Australia and can help answer your transport research questions by providing access to an extensive resource of transport-related information.

Please visit www.arrb.com.au for more information on the MG Lay Library services or email info@arrb.com.au

Subscription packages
ARRB’s comprehensive range of publications provide the latest information on current issues and developments in the road transport field. The information packages are available on subscription and are designed to keep you up-to-date and meet your needs.

Please visit www.arrb.com.au for more information on subscription packages or email Booksales@arrb.com.au

Briefing newsletter
‘Briefing’ is ARRB’s corporate newsletter, published quarterly; it reports on our work in Australia and overseas. Briefing also provides information on forthcoming conferences and workshops, and new ARRB and Austroads publications.

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