



Background

- The Australian Transport Council (ATC) endorsed Data Action Plan
 - developed by the Strategic Research and Technology Working Group (SR&T WG)
- Action Item 7:
 - ‘Provide access to strategically important national transportation data via a web-based data gateway’



- Previous attempts at national transport data websites failed
 - issues with access and control of data through a central data repository
- Focus on making metadata (information about data) available from a single website
 - rather than creating a data warehouse



- The aims of the metadata website are to:
 - Act as a transport data directory for identified strategically important national transport datasets
 - Systematically describe the data and its quality attributes (based on the ABS Data Quality Framework) using minimal metadata
 - Where available and appropriate, link with the custodian's data



First steps

- Development of a pilot website
 - ABS investing in the necessary infrastructure
- To test:
 - The level of inter-jurisdictional collaboration
 - Functionality of the website
 - Business practices employed to ensure ongoing cooperation and commitment to the website
 - The value of the full website, particularly for policy development



- Metadata template, developed with all jurisdictions, includes:
 - Name of survey/collection
 - Data owner/custodian
 - Collection purpose
 - Scope and coverage
 - Description of the dataset (including definitions)
 - Data frequency and currency
 - Access arrangements
 - Contact details



Transport Metadata Pilot

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Transport Metadata Pilot Site

Welcome to the ABS Metadata Transport Pilot. This site provides metadata for selected Australian transport data collections. It has been established under the direction of the Australian Transport Council for the purpose of improving the accessibility and quality of Australian transport data collections.

Transport data are vitally important in all stages of the decision making process for planning, intermodal integration and improving transport efficiency. The purpose of this site is to show the variety of data available and how these data can be accessed. More background information can be attained by selecting the 'About' item on the left of each page.

[Browse Transport Data Catalogue](#)

[Search Transport Data Catalogue](#)

The Browse Transport Data Catalogue facility provides a dynamic way to browse through available resources that are held within the site. It offers different theme categories to assist users wishing to browse the data and enables information to be displayed by theme.

The Search Transport Data Catalogue facility offers another way to give a user access to information about transport data. It searches through the available resources looking for key words provided by the user and returns results that contain those key words.

The Browse and Search facilities are also accessible by selecting the 'Transportation Metadata' item on the left of each page.

About the Transport Metadata Pilot

Transport data are collected and published by many different agencies in Australia, which can make it difficult for potential users to identify and obtain information about relevant data sources. Transport data users would benefit from collecting available metadata in one place.

The Strategic Research and Technology (SR&T) Working Group

The Strategic Research and Technology (SR&T) Working Group was established as part of the [Australian Transport Council's \(ATC\)](#) National Transport Policy Framework in 2008 with the purpose of enhancing the delivery of evidence-based policy and supporting improvements to transportation efficiency and effectiveness through a co-ordinated national approach to strategic transportation research, technology and data collection and dissemination.

The SR&T Working Group is convened by the Tasmanian Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources and has representatives from all Commonwealth, State and Territory transport agencies, as well as the ABS and [National Transport Commission \(NTC\)](#).

Findings

The SR&T Working Group analysed transportation data needs and data issues. It found that information about current data collections, including the scope, applicability and data quality, needed to be improved to ensure that transport data is used most effectively and efficiently to inform policy.

Through a series of consultation sessions and a [national workshop](#) with transportation data stakeholders the SR&T Working Group identified national strategic transportation data needs and priorities and has developed a [Data Action Plan](#), endorsed by the ATC, to improve data quality and visibility.

Metadata Visibility Website

The national workshop concluded that making data more visible and available was the highest priority. More information is available in the [Visibility of Strategically Important Transportation Data report](#). The ATC directed the SR&T Working Group to test a pilot data visibility website based on [transport metadata](#). This is the resultant website.

Where to from here?

Once the success of the pilot visibility site has been assessed, a decision will be made whether to go to a full national website and, if so, what improvements need to be made.



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What is Metadata?

"Metadata is structured data which describes the characteristics of a resource" according to a [University of Queensland](#) paper.

In recent years, metadata is one of the most talked about topics in the technical and business world. It has the potential to vastly improve information sharing and is discussed as the way of the future. So, what is metadata? Simply, metadata is data about data.

The sort of basic items metadata may include are:

- Title
- Author
- Description
- Date Created

These are just a few examples of metadata. In terms of statistics, metadata can be as detailed as collection methods, jurisdictions and access methods.

The [University of Queensland](#) summarises well the reason we should use and implement metadata:

"Information resources must be made visible in a way that allows people to tell whether the resources are likely to be useful to them. This is no less important in the online world, and in particular, the World Wide Web. Metadata is a systematic method for describing resources and thereby improving access to them. If a resource is worth making available, then it is worth describing it with metadata, so as to maximise the ability to locate it."

For more information about metadata, visit the University of Queensland's [An Introduction to Metadata](#).



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Browse Transportation Data Catalogue

Please use drop down boxes to select reference area, theme and mode filters before selecting a resource to view.

1. Select filters:

Theme: and/or
Mode: and/or Reference area:

2. Select resource to view:

Resource:

Please make your selection above.



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Browse Transportation Data Catalogue

Please use drop down boxes to select reference area, theme and mode filters before selecting a resource to view.

1. Select filters:

Theme: and/or
Mode: and/or Reference area:

2. Select resource to view:

Resource:

Road condition (NSW)
New Motor Vehicle Sales, Australia (9314.0)
Survey of Motor Vehicle Use, Australia (9208.0)
Motor Vehicle Census, Australia (9309.0)

Please make your selection above.

Name of Survey/Data Set:	Road condition (NSW)
Collection Purpose:	Support Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) Business purposes i.e. to monitor and schedule maintenance activities including patching, resurfacing and reconstruction
Description of the Data Set:	<p>Roughness, Rutting, Texture, Cracking, Strength, Seal Age, Skid resistance across the 17,912 km State Road network.</p> <p>Data on ride quality and pavement durability are measures of road performance used by RTA maintenance planners to monitor and schedule maintenance activities including patching, resurfacing and reconstruction across the 17,912 km State Road network.</p> <p>1. "Ride Quality" values are calculated, using over 180,000 individual automated roughness readings, as a statistic to represent the percentage of vehicle kilometres travelled on road sections of specific roughness levels. The parameters are used as a benchmark for comparison of maintenance performance from year-to-year at a network level.</p> <p>2. Similarly, "Pavement Durability" is a statistical measure of cracking on the whole State Road network calculated as a percentage of lengths exhibiting certain cracking parameters and, as above, does not represent specific roads or routes and provides an indication, at a point in time, of the stated pavement durability that also allows RTA maintenance planners to forward plan road maintenance projects.</p>
Scope and Coverage:	NSW State Road network incl Auslink (National Network)
Data Frequency:	Annual subset
Data Currency:	2008/2009 for internal application
Reference Area:	NSW
Theme(s):	Transportation and the Economy, Operations and Performance, Transportation Infrastructure, Safety, Externalities and Energy
Mode(s):	Road
Access Arrangements:	RTA Corporate database GM Infrastructure Asset Management
File Type:	Output file type can be specified
File Size:	Very large
Release Protocol:	Yes
Fees or Free of Charge:	Not offered commercially, licence agreements have been implemented where information has been provided for road industry application in the past.
Standards:	~~~~~
Definitions:	As per industry standards, available through Austroads www.austroads.com.au
Classification:	~~~~~
Quality:	Refer RTA Test Method and associated Austroads Methods
Integration:	RTA PRP system known as Roadloc (Road data location reference system) Latitude Longitude
Additional Information:	NA
Keywords:	Texture Strength Seal Skid resistance Roughness Pavement condition IRI International Index NAASRA rutting cracking deflectorgraph asset deflection GPS video



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Search Transport Data Catalogue

Please enter key words into the search box and press search button.

Your search "Road condition data" returned 2 results.

- Road Condition Data (ACT)**
Strategic Asset Management, Roads ACT, TAMS Asset Information, TAMS
Condition data for major road assets [More Information](#)
- Pavement Condition Data Collection (Qld)**
Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads
Network level pavement condition data that includes Road condition; road geometry; visual rating; and Digital Video Road (DVR) image capture for all roads for which responsibility rests with the Department of Transport and Main Roads: Auslink; Other State Controlled Roads (OSCRs); and Local Roads of Regional Significance (LRRSs). [More Information](#)



Where to from here?

- The pilot website received overwhelmingly positive support from key stakeholders
- There were demands to increase the number of datasets
- Suggestions for enhanced functionality were received



Where to from here?

- New governance arrangements for transport data have been endorsed
 - The Australian Transport Data Action Network (ATDAN) will have its first meeting in November
- ATDAN will pick up the project and develop governance and business processes
- ABS will invest in the infrastructure and the ongoing maintenance of the website



Questions?