

Road Safety Audits

Owner: Road Network Division
Manager: Road Projects

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Definitions

- **Road Safety Audit** - is a formal examination of a future road or traffic project or an existing road, in which an independent, qualified team reports on the project's crash potential and safety performance (Austroads).
- **Road Safety Risk Management** - is a process by which the identified road safety risks can be compared and prioritised for treatment.
- **An independent, qualified team** - will consist of a team leader who is formally qualified to undertake a Road Safety Audit at the specified level, has not been directly involved in the previous stages of the project on which a judgement is required and who is supported, where necessary, by a number of appropriately experienced and qualified staff. The team leader and the team members will be sourced from outside the design office.
- **Traffic** - will include all forms; ranging from pedestrians to road trains.
- **The Stages of Road Safety Audit** - for the purposes of this policy, the stages for road safety audits are defined as:

Stage 1	-	Feasibility design
Stage 2	-	Preliminary design
Stage 3	-	Detail design
Stage 4	-	Pre-opening design
Stage 5	-	Existing roads

When considered necessary, an audit of the constructor's traffic management plan will be required.

Objective

To establish the appropriate timing for road safety audits of roads and road projects under control of the Northern Territory Government.

Background

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure recognises the cost effectiveness of conducting road safety audits at various logical intervals in the development of road projects.

Whenever they are carried out, Road Safety Audits shall be undertaken in accordance with national practice given in Austroads publication – Road Safety Audit (2002). Appropriate consideration shall be given to vulnerable road users and for unique traffic conditions that exist in the Northern Territory.

Guidelines

The Road Network Division will direct which Road Safety Audits stages will be undertaken for all projects where:

- a new road is proposed.
- a road is to be realigned or upgraded.
- a change to the movement of traffic is proposed.
- a change to the arrangement of traffic control devices is proposed.
- there may be a change in the traffic generated by a development adjacent to a road.

In General

For all capital roadworks:

- a Stage 3 audit will be required.
- audits from Stage 1 to Stage 4 may be directed dependant on project scope and complexity.

For all urban and intersection roadworks:

- a Stage 3 and Stage 4 audit will be required.

For pavement rehabilitation and major maintenance items:

- a Stage 2 audit will be required (on the existing road).

Note: Project/ Design handovers will prescribe additional audits where deemed necessary.

There will be a need for staff who initiate projects to assess the project complexity and determine whether additional audits are appropriate.

Upon receipt of a Road Safety Audit Report the Road Network Division will review the report with the auditor. Road Network Division will identify and document recommendations from the audit report to be implemented, and document and justify those recommendations that are not to be implemented. The works project will be adjusted in accordance with the adopted recommendations and the auditor will be notified of the decisions taken. Road Projects will be notified and advised to note the amendments for future reference.

Approved

Ernie Wanka
Senior Director Road Network
25 February 2008