

Local government experiences with traffic management in local communities

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The management of traffic in local communities is often one of the most challenging and divisive issues that is the responsibility of local government. And yet local area traffic management (LATM), otherwise known as traffic calming, has been effective in improving the safety, amenity and livability of local areas in Australia and New Zealand for decades.

In order to assist with knowledge sharing within local government so that practitioners can benefit from the experience of their peers, and so national guidelines can be kept up to date, extensive research was undertaken in 2018 to identify new, innovative and revised approaches to the application of traffic management practice in Australia and New Zealand. A total of 615 local government agencies were approached for their input and a broad cross-section of responses was received. This research formed part of a 20-year longitudinal research project by the author that commenced in 2006 and has since been updated every four years in 2010, 2014 and now again in 2018.

This paper outlines the findings of that research, addressing questions such as the effectiveness of traffic calming measures used, the methods used in decision making, design considerations, and innovations in practice. The research evaluates and compares data over a 12-year period from 2006 to 2018 and draws conclusions that will be of wide interest to local government engineering and management professionals.

References:

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