

State roads and pedestrian facilities

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Why do State Road Agencies need to include Pedestrian Facilities in their planning?

Traditionally, State Roads Tasmania has been responsible for planning and maintaining major highways and arterials outside cities. More recently, however, aspects like development and growth, congestion and the cost of ageing road infrastructure have led to the State Government to take over ownership of roads or road segments in urban environments (mainly Hobart and Launceston).

One advantage is a more connected state road network through the cities and improved traffic flows through centralised planning. At the same time a vehicular-based traffic-flow approach is contradictory to the approach many Councils are taking by promoting alternative transport modes (i.e. walking, cycling and the use of public transport).

In a city like Hobart with few alternative routes for vehicular through traffic major challenges lie ahead balancing freight movement to and through a growth area as well as maintaining and improving urban design and liveability which are key to attracting more people to the south.

AUSTROADS is currently reviewing standards for pedestrian facility planning. The initial literature review has already revealed that pedestrian facilities are of growing importance to state road agencies.

This paper will demonstrate the importance of urban design and in particular pedestrian facilities to an integrated transport planning approach in Hobart.