Strategic Local Government Asset Assessment Project (SLGAAP)

Priority Heavy Vehicle Routes

The NHVR developed a methodology to identify priority heavy vehicle routes on local government roads in 2022 under Phase 2 of the Strategic Local Government Asset Assessment Project (SLGAAP). This methodology included a standardised approach to identify key routes and regional networks to encourage more targeted asset selection and prioritisation for asset assessment. The outcome of this activity was to establish the priority heavy vehicle routes on local government roads nationally to inform asset assessments, contribute to seamless access across the road network and contribute to better decision making.

The purpose of the activity was to highlight asset assessments to support existing access and provide new access opportunities focused on route outcomes and provide local government road managers with heavy vehicle access-related asset data to support their decision-making.

Identification

The NHVR has identified over 2000 priority heavy vehicle routes on local government owned roads.

Priority heavy vehicle routes were identified based on a comprehensive literature review and analysis of several existing open-source datasets. Routes are currently being prioritised using a multi-criteria assessment approach based on their alignment to freight and land use connectivity, regional network access, heavy vehicle demand and traffic composition, functional classification or road hierarchy, lifeline function, and strategic alignment.

Each priority heavy vehicle route has been mapped using the road management tool in the Spatial platform of the NHVR Portal.

Verification & Validation

The project team conducted an extensive campaign of stakeholder engagement with individual Councils, local government associations and regional groups to verify and validate the individual routes and substantiate the dataset. Councils and the heavy vehicle industry have been provided with the opportunity to refine the dataset and recommend changes that they believe should be incorporated.

Towards a Route Capability Assessment Approach

The route capability assessment guideline will support road managers to assess their critical assets on priority heavy vehicle routes to enable whole-of-journey access outcomes for heavy vehicles, drawing on structural engineering principles and transport planning practice.

Route capability assessments identify that not all assets on a given route will require '*detailed*' engineering assessment beyond an initial screening assessment, and resources can instead be focused on uplift opportunities for pivotal assets to provide the target level of service for the corridor.

The NHVR is excited to announce that it will continue its existing partnership with Aurecon to deliver the route capability assessment guideline in Spring 2024. The guideline will be supported by initial pilot route capability assessments for two priority heavy vehicle route corridors that were identified in NHVR's regional engagement workshops with the Legatus Group of Councils and the Grampians Regional Group in 2023. These corridors include:

- Stockwell Road in the Barossa region of South Australia; and
- Landsborough Road in the Grampians region of Victoria.

The assessment of these corridors will support freight-dependent land use and local industry by enabling safe access for higher productivity vehicles on the local road network.

The guideline is a deliverable under Phase 2 of the Strategic Local Government Asset Assessment Project (SLGAAP) and the NHVR's Corporate Plan 2023-2026.

Next Steps

The NHVR will continue to assist local government road managers to undertake capacity assessments of bridges and culverts on priority heavy vehicle routes throughout Phase 3 of SLGAAP to help better understand safe operating limits of road infrastructure and provide heavy vehicle access where it is safe.