ABOUT THE INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS STUDIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY BUSINESS SCHOOL
The Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies (ITLS) at The University of Sydney Business School is a leading international centre of thought leadership in the crucially linked areas of transport, logistics and supply chain management. With all of these facets holding the key to Australia’s economic competitiveness, societal wellbeing and environmental prosperity, we focus on providing impartial evidence based research with a view to informing the management and policy directions of industry and government. Established in 1991, our goal is simple: to contribute to the design, improvement and optimisation of infrastructure, transport and logistics initiatives around the world.

Our diverse areas of interest include the journey of goods and services from manufacture to disposal as well as ways of improving the efficiency of national and international freight companies and distribution systems. We are also interested in all aspects of passenger mobility and accessibility, from the experiences of commuters travelling to work by car or public transport, to those traversing the globe on aircraft or ship for business or recreation. We are world experts on evaluating the value of travel time savings as a major input when establishing the benefits of transport projects. In a broader context, we are dedicated to identifying strategies for reducing vehicular pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and traffic congestion, as well as encouraging initiatives that promote individual wellbeing and environmental sustainability, and importantly improving efficiency and productivity to support economic development.

Significantly, we are also a highly respected and internationally recognised academic institution that provides graduate teaching, management development programs and short executive courses in all areas associated with transport and logistics management.

WHO WE ARE
The work of ITLS is proactive, collaborative and wide reaching. It includes the analysis and review of existing infrastructure projects and providing institutional design recommendations including pricing, organization and governance for potential infrastructure and transport solutions. Whether assessing the merits of a proposed toll road, port terminal, freight route, airport or airline route or consulting on the viability of investment in heavy or light rail, bus rapid transit or high speed rail, we aim to assist governments and stakeholders to make better informed decisions in alignment with consumer needs and budgetary constraints. We also specialise in collecting new primary data on the attitudes and opinions of both public and private sector stakeholders on a range of important matters including the improvement and prioritisation of public transport initiatives and freight strategy options.

Crucially, all our work is informed by the knowledge that any transport and logistics solution must be integrated within the parameters of planning and land use requirements at local, urban, regional and national levels. We know it must take into account the design of future cities, serving to maximise market and destination access while ensuring that the distribution of goods and services exerts minimal negative impact on urban efficiency and lifestyle.

We also understand that transport and logistics is an ever evolving field that will continue to have a profound influence on the way society goes about its business, and which will experience ongoing challenges stemming from many issues such as population growth and increasingly stringent environmental obligations. It’s our task to assist companies and policy makers in meeting these challenges with state of the art, innovative solutions.

“The research group at ITLS is globally recognised for its contributions to the development of choice models that not only have added to the body of theoretical knowledge but also delivered practical tools that are widely used by practitioners.”

KENNETH TRAIN
Vice-President NERA Economic Consulting and Adjunct Professor of Economics, University of California Berkeley
More than just something that allows us to travel from point A to point B, effective infrastructure and transport systems are central to our very way of life. From an economic growth perspective, these systems are crucial to improving efficiency and national productivity and may even provide the means of exerting competitive advantage over other nations. With transport and logistics activities accounting for up to 20 percent of Australia’s business and household costs, the importance of understanding network optimisation strategies cannot be overstated.

Effective transport is also central to the concept of livable societies and is essential for creating environments that people enjoy living in. Considering that traffic congestion involving virtually all forms of public and private transport in our large urban areas has been identified as a major source of individual dissatisfaction, a focus on delivering efficient solutions is paramount. At an economic level, this congestion has even been identified as a potential threat to Australia’s competitive advantage with its East Asian counterparts.

Perhaps most importantly, the health of the environment and that of entire populations is also irrevocably linked to the quality and nature of infrastructure and transport distribution systems. With strategically formulated solutions and technologies offering enormous potential for pollution and greenhouse gas reduction, the continuation of work in this area demands the highest priority.

“The ITLS is one of the rare Australian University institutes that effectively bridges research and public policy. Through its pragmatic, results-orientated approach and willingness to challenge conventional wisdom and political orthodoxy, it has made a significant contribution to the quality of public debate on transport issues.”

THE HON NICK GREINER AC
Former Premier of New South Wales
The leading contributions of ITLS to crucial infrastructure projects and initiatives include:

- Our research around national road pricing reform – a project that involves understanding stakeholder attitudes and ascertaining how to achieve crucial community buy in on this major reform initiative.
- The establishment of the Bus Rapid Transit Centre - a facility established in conjunction with the Volvo Research and Education Foundation to help break the emotional attachment to investment in expensive heavy rail systems and to encourage governments to consider better value for money options.
- Our decade long monitoring of incentives to discourage the use of private transport and boost the popularity of public alternatives.
- Our extensive efforts to develop GPS as a substitute for paper survey forms in conducting travel and activity behaviour studies.
- Our research to identify personal exposure to fine particulates and emissions in general and ways to mitigate the impacts.
- The pivotal role of our NSW government funded Chair in Public Transport in the development of Sydney’s long term strategic transport plans.

- Our research into understanding incentives to discourage drivers from speeding.
- The detailed examination of the relationship between transport activities and health with a particular focus on reducing obesity via active transport alternatives.
- Our strong drive to re-educate industry regarding the importance of value chains (as opposed to supply chains) in defining business success.
- The development of new methodologies and frameworks for studying choice behaviour, in particular relating to the understanding of how people’s preferences change when offered different products.
- Our focus on addressing the challenges facing ports and shipping businesses, including the development of new optimisation models to identify where best to locate intermodal distribution centres.
- The development of globally portable integrated passenger and freight modelling systems for metropolitan areas.
- Our engagement with airlines and airports on delivering profitable, customer oriented, competitive and sustainable services at all levels of the aviation value chain.
“When it came to upgrading the skills of key traffic operators and planners at the Roads and Traffic Authority of NSW, seeking input from the Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies was an obvious choice. The long term partnership has resulted in a series of specialised study programs that have helped improve staff skill levels and assisted the organisation in addressing its many challenges.”

PAUL FORWARD
Chief Executive 1999-2005,
The Roads and Traffic Authority of NSW
Since its inception over two decades ago, ITLS has been involved in many successful collaborative relationships spanning the private and public sectors.

As advisors on all major toll road projects in Australia and New Zealand, we have engaged extensively with bidding consortia comprised of companies such as Transurban, Theiss, Macquarie Bank, ABN Amro and John Holland, undertaking much of the work relating to the valuation of benefits like travel time savings. International recognition of our choice modelling expertise has also fueled demand for advice from organisations such as the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, Frontier Economics, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Parsons Brickenhoff, Gilbert and Tobin and the UK’s Southern Water.

We have advised on distribution networks for reverse logistics specialists such as AWA Ltd, provided input on supply chain logistics for companies like Nestle, and have been trusted advisors to the private bus sector on aspects of government interaction. ITLS also boasts significant and important links to Australia’s procurement sector, which looks to us for advice on the setting and improvement of their industry standards.

In addition to our private sector engagement, we have also been extensively involved in many important government review processes, including work around the New South Wales long term transport master plan. We have also conducted a significant proportion of the valuation and impact analysis in relation to projects such as Sydney’s proposed heavy rail and bus rapid transit system network.

Our association with both the public and private arenas has also seen us heavily involved in the analysis of high speed rail viability. Having completed more patronage demand studies around this form of transportation than any other organisation in Australia, we have worked closely with numerous private consortia as well as the Australasian Rail Association regarding proposals for high speed rail links between Sydney and Melbourne.

In addition, our strong international affiliations with the Department of Transport Engineering and Logistics at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, our partnership with ITLS (Africa) in South Africa, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Instituto Técnico Superior de la Universidad Técnica de Lisboa and EMBARQ (The World Resources Institute Center for Sustainable Transport) Network provide a rich environment in which to develop and share collective thought advancement in all areas relating to global transport and logistics issues.
In addition to our focus on research and consultation, ITLS is also a specialist course provider dedicated to developing the next generation of infrastructure experts and planners. We offer formal graduate coursework and research programs that lead to Masters and PhD qualifications and are also strongly engaged with executive education programs in partnership with both government and industry bodies.

Our initiatives have included the design and delivery of formal accreditation programs for various Australian sectors such as the bus and coach industry as well as humanitarian logistics and reverse logistics courses for supply chain managers and the Chartered Institute of Procurement Services (CIPS). Our international presence includes delivery of courses in the Executive MBA program of Shanghai Jiao Tong University and intensive short courses in the UK, Sweden, Italy and Singapore.

“As an inaugural participant in the ITLS post graduation work placement program, AWA has continued to engage students with a particular interest in logistics. The calibre of participants’ theoretical and practical background, motivation and work ethic has ensured we look forward to continuing a long and fruitful relationship with the ITLS and its alumni.”

MARK RAINBIRD
Managing Director,
AWA Limited

“The transport system at home in Botswana is still rudimentary. Being a student at the Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies has helped me to gain the knowledge and experience to enhance my country’s development.”

PORTIA OTENG
OROFILE-TAPA
TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT
The Founding Director of ITLS, Professor David Hensher FASSA, has been synonymous with the study of transport, logistics and supply chain management in Australia for over three decades.

He is internationally renowned as a leading research pioneer who has dedicated his career to the analysis and improvement of infrastructure systems around the world.

“Transportation systems are key to the survival of our urban societies and are at the hub of what makes them livable,” he explains. “They are not unlike our own nervous systems, representing the life giving infrastructure that enables the rest of the organism to function healthily.”

Originally educated as a mainstream economist, Professor Hensher became interested in transport logistics when he met Professor Michael Beesley at London Business School in the early 1970s. Subsequently convinced that transportation economics represented one of the most relevant applications of microeconomic theory, he undertook a change in direction via a PhD, exploring the little understood area of travel time evaluation. His resulting Hensher Formula revolutionised UK economic evaluation guidelines in relation to business related travel time saving and became the first of many contributions to global thinking around transport and logistics issues.

Since then he has authored 12 books and over 500 papers, co founded the long running Thredbo Series (the world’s premier conference series discussing reform agendas in land passenger transport) and has served as a Vice Chair of the International Scientific Committee of the World Conference of Transport Research and President of the International Association of Traveler Behavior Research.

His catalogue of industry recognition is also considerable and includes the 2009 International Association of Travel Behaviour Lifetime Achievement Award, the 2006 Engineers Australia Transport Medal and the 2009 NSW Bus and Coach Association’s Outstanding Contribution to Industry Award.

Firmly of the belief that transportation and logistics remains a highly neglected area in economics, Professor Hensher continues to stress the importance of the transport logistics interface to national productivity, and says the consequences of wrong infrastructure choices by decision makers and stakeholders have never been as severe.

“Given that we now live in one big world and that infrastructure and transport systems are vital for connecting us efficiently, the challenges facing planners and broader society have never been greater,” he says. “As change becomes more rapid and profound, the ability to respond appropriately assumes ever greater importance.”