

# Sustainable Transport On Track

ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2000



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FOR ADVANCED ENGINEERING

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## Transport Project Moves Forward

Following on from the initial scene setting, the 'Sustainable Transport in Sustainable Cities' project series has moved into stage two – the investigation and analysis stage.

This stage will provide the knowledge and understanding necessary to develop a strategic plan for sustainable transport in Sydney and a methodology for use in other major cities.

### State of Play

The first stage, Project 1, the State of Play, is drawing to a close with some 22 papers by the 30 authors due for publication in March 2000.

The authors workshop held in August last year defined accessibility as the key issue for a sustainable transport system.

"The project's vision is now to achieve effective sustainable access that is more equitable across location and socio-economic groups and a close integration of different modes of transport," said Ken Dobinson, the Project Director. "This needs to be backed up by financial accountability."

The initial focus group workshop in November 1999 identified the strategic priorities which need to be addressed to be institutional barriers, education and communication, land use/transport interaction, pricing and equity, the role of technology and targets for sustainability.

### Community Values

The next step – Project 2, Community Values – is underway. Led by Garry Glazebrook, the project will look at people's behaviour and transport initiatives to identify community values, expectations and responses to transport changes.

The team has already compiled a database of existing data on the subject and prepared the research program. It will also explore the decision-making process associated with transport activities.

### Other Projects

Further projects included in the investigation and analysis stage are:

**Project 3 – Community Awareness (Education and Communication).** This will likely include a competition for primary school children, a workshop for secondary school children, and an ongoing interaction linking schools, universities, businesses and the media.

**Project 4 – Technology's Contribution.** This will review the implications of emerging technologies on sustainable transport by assessing the real costs and impacts of technology. The project will also explore developments in information technology and practices such as telecommuting which impact on transport use.

**Project 5 – Land Use Development.** This will explore how land use (space) is regulated and priced and the effect these have on people's propensity to travel. Issues covered will include housing choices, interaction between residence and work, and ways to utilise land use regulation and pricing to influence travel demand and choice.

**Project 6 – Decision-Making and Institutional Structure.** This will review the institutional structure, the roles and responsibilities of government and agencies, and the decision-making processes. It will also cover legal aspects, transport funding, financing, regulations and pricing of infrastructure and transport.

## Contact:

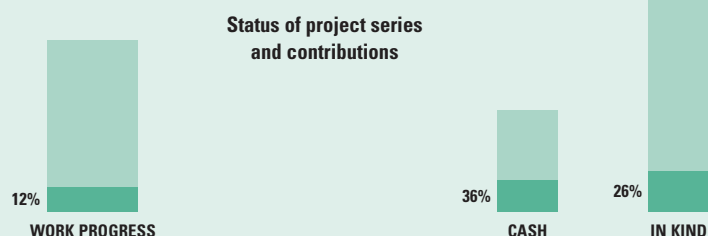
Kim Freeman

The Warren Centre for Advanced Engineering  
Engineering Building, J13  
Sydney University NSW 2006  
Telephone: 0412 278 073  
Facsimile: (02) 9351 2012  
email: warrenc@eng.usyd.edu.au

Edited by: Karen Prout

Designed and produced by: Kannegieter & Jackson

## Progress and Resources



## From the Project Champion – Hugh Ralston

“The project series widens as we work. It is not simply about transport.

It is about cities; it is about changing work patterns, changing demographics, and changing lifestyle as well as increasing travel.

It is not just about assembling all the elements of ‘world’s best practice’ in transport, cities and sustainability. It’s about making them happen.

To make a difference, we need to involve the media and educators to change the community reasoning which contributes to current transport behaviour.

To do this, we need to learn from other Australian campaigns, such as Clean Up Australia, Anti Smoking, and Land Care which have successfully changed attitudes and behaviours.

I am heartened by the tremendous support the project series has received and encouraged by the authors’ commitment. I invite all interested parties to get involved in the up and coming projects in the investigation and analysis stage.”

## Spotlight on Contributors

Drawing on the strengths and skills of a variety of individuals, The Warren Centre wishes to thank all contributors for their time and input. In this newsletter we hear from some of the players in the State of Play project.

### Consensus on the issues

**John McKerral**, transport consultant and Group Leader for the State of Play project, is impressed with the quality of input to the first project and the level of agreement amongst people from different disciplines.

“Although transport is recognised as very complex, what controls it is the way individuals think and act,” said John.

“In looking at the data, we discovered you have to burrow down and find out why people live the way they do, and understand their choices about where they live and when and how they travel.

“If we are to make a difference we will need to focus on how people make these decisions and explore the issues influencing these decisions.”

### Tackling these issues differently

As facilitator of the November focus group workshop into the issues and strategies, **Carolyn Stone**, Director of PPM Consultants, detected a familiar response.

“Most emphasis was placed on the institutional arrangements – how did the structure of government, the regulatory environment, funding and pricing arrangements affect decision-making and transport outcomes?

“Also what are the ‘real’ drivers of demand for travel in Sydney? What do we know and what

additional research would be helpful? How can technology help and what is the role of education and information?”

Carolyn acknowledges that these topics are not new.

“These issues have been looked at before, but The Warren Centre project has the potential to tackle them in different terms,” she said.

“One of the key questions is ‘Why have changes not been made before – what has really prevented ideas about change in transport from gaining ground’.”

Carolyn is sure the answers will be interesting.

### Developing broad agreements

**Wendy Adam**, State Transit’s Manager, Service Development who contributed to the State of Play project with papers on public buses and ferries in Sydney and Newcastle, is heartened to see the broader transport community concentrate on sustainable issues.

“State Transit has been focusing on sustainable technology, increasing service and accessibility rather than short-term financial goals for some time,” said Wendy.

“With the transport agenda focused on these issues, there will be greater continuity and broader-based support to make progress in these areas.”

Wendy also hopes that the project, with its non-adversarial approach, will help develop broad agreements between the transport players.

“By bringing together the infrastructure providers for road and rail as well as community groups and transport agencies, the project has the potential to put in place strategic agreements on future directions. This could mean that at the individual project level these issues are not being reworked – at great cost to the community.”

## STOP PRESS

We are confident that the Premier of NSW, the Hon Bob Carr will accept our invitation to launch the project series at a luncheon at the Westin Hotel, Martin Place, Sydney on 30th March 2000. Professor Martin Wachs from The University of California, Berkeley is Chairman of the US Transportation Research Board and Visiting Fellow for the project series. He will deliver the keynote address and share his thoughts on sustainable transport.

## Sponsors



**HOLDEN**

As Australia’s leading supplier of passenger vehicles in 1999, Holden is well aware of how much a part of Australian culture the car has become, and of the major environmental challenges the transport industry faces.

“At Holden, we are interested in how we can meet these challenges at the same time as fulfilling the attributes of comfort, safety and convenience that Australians have come to expect as part of life,” said Alison Terry, Holden’s Manager Public Policy.

“This project will be a step towards understanding the changes needed.”

As a world-wide company, Holden hopes to contribute its overseas work in this area to the project and also to share the project’s findings within its international business.

As a major provider of infrastructure, both for the public and private sector, Leighton Contractors supports the project believing it will encourage the acceptance of a long-term plan for Sydney’s transport services.



“We need to formulate a plan for the next 50 years, and we hope that this project – with the public awareness it will raise – will win the authorities’ acceptance,” said Rick Turchini, General Manager, NSW and ACT for Leighton Contractors.

“We need a sustainable plan so that organisations such as Leightons can plan resource needs,” he said. “This will provide much greater efficiencies and reduced costs for the community.

“If we can develop a blue print, everyone will be much better equipped for the future.”