

Strategic Local Government Asset Assessment Project (SLGAAP)

Background

As road owners, local government road managers are responsible for providing access decisions for heavy vehicles to travel on their road network. With more than 24,000¹ bridges and culverts on local government-owned roads, road managers often need to assess whether specific heavy vehicle combinations can safely travel over these structures.

What is SLGAAP?

The Strategic Local Government Asset Assessment Project (SLGAAP) commenced in late 2019, with the Australian Government providing the NHVR with \$7.96 million in grant funding over two years.

The funding was provided to assist local government road managers across Australia by undertaking asset capability assessments of on-road assets, such as bridges and culverts.

During SLGAAP Phase 1, key project activities included:

- completing 394 bridge and culvert assessments and related engineering reports
- assessing up to 112 vehicle configurations across selected assets
- working with 74 councils to better understand their asset capacity
- developing a prototype Asset Rapid Assessment Tool (ARAT)
- developing resources for road managers, including the Asset Assessment Framework
- updating data for more than 2000 assets in the NHVR Portal Assets Module.

The success of SLGAAP Phase 1 demonstrated an ongoing need for bridge and culvert assessments to support road managers in access decision-making.

As a result, the Australian Government has provided an additional \$12 million to fund SLGAAP for another three years.

SLGAAP Phase 2 is now underway with 71 assets assessed in the first round, bringing the total to 465 asset assessments to date. Round 2 commenced in April 2023, with another 125 assets shortlisted to be assessed.

The second phase of the project concentrates on:

- identifying strategic assets on key routes for whole-of-journey network improvement
- undertaking targeted asset capability assessments with engineering suppliers
- developing a framework for bridge family assessment
- further developing a centralised asset information system and Asset Rapid Assessment Tool (ARAT) in the NHVR Portal
- delivering additional road manager education and training.

How to nominate an asset?

Under SLGAAP Phase 2, rounds of asset nominations will be open at various intervals until the project completion in 2024.

Through the NHVR Portal, there will be opportunities for road managers to self-nominate assets of significance in future rounds.



¹ 2021 National State of the Assets Report, ALGA

How are assets selected for an assessment?

To manage the high volume of local government-controlled bridges and major culverts being nominated for assessment, SLGAAP applies selection criteria that consider the following:



Who will benefit from the project?

This project will increase the available information about local government road assets, benefiting both road managers and the heavy vehicle industry by:

- improving local government road manager understanding of asset capability and the ability to assess heavy vehicle access applications across a range of vehicle configurations
- improving transport operator ability to consider an asset's capability when planning their journey along networks that include bridges and culverts.

How to get involved?

We are interested to hear from road managers and transport operators about:

- bridges and culverts that have known access issues
- assets with unknown capability for certain heavy vehicle configurations
- assets that limit connectivity to the state road network.

Please visit the SLGAAP website to learn how to get involved in the project.

<https://nhvr.engagementhub.com.au/>



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