

NZTA's Research Programme



RCA Forum

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Outline

1. NZTA's Research Programme
2. Evaluation of the value of NZTA's Research Programme
3. Availability of information about NZTA's Research Programme

1. NZTA's Research Programme

Regarding sector research the GPS 2012:

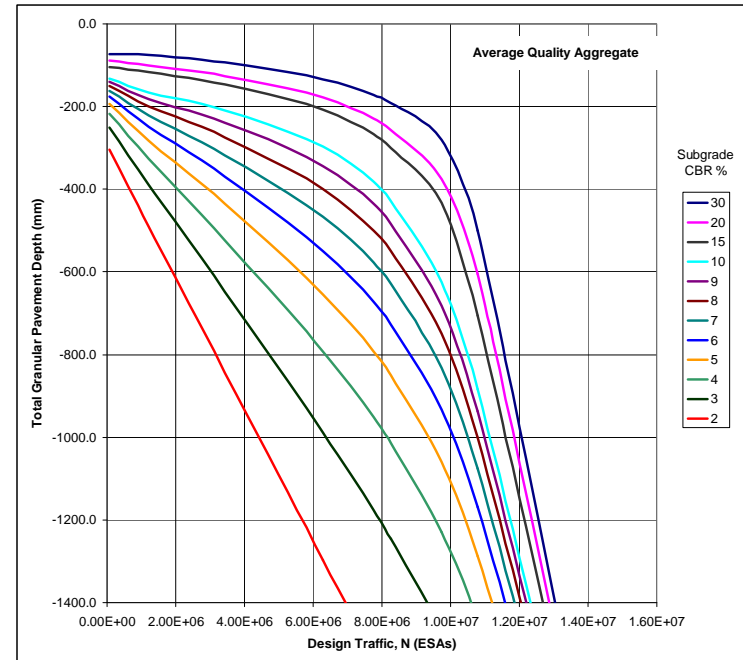
- ▶ provides a mid point of \$4m per annum for NZTA to invest in research
- ▶ defines sector research as 'activities related to managing and delivering research into land transport issues'
- ▶ expectation that sector research will shape policy and implementation to achieve value for money



Definition of NZTA Research

The NZTA invests in research:

- ▶ to acquire new knowledge or better utilise existing knowledge
- ▶ that can be applied by transport decision-makers to deliver more effective, efficient and economic transport solutions
- ▶ for issues prioritised by the NZTA to give effect to the *Government policy statement on land transport funding (GPS)*



Recent review of research activity class

The review:

- ▶ ensured research investment decisions align with NZTA's strategic direction and its IRS
- ▶ signaled a fundamental change in the way the NZTA manages research
- ▶ shifted the focus towards directed research



Recent review of research activity class (cont)

With the shift towards directed research:

- ▶ research is now more top down and for transport decision maker (TDM) purposes
- ▶ TDMs are NZTA, MoT and AOs
- ▶ selected sector organisations are asked to submit challenges which research can assist to address



NZTA's Research Programme Framework

The review resulted in a new Framework which provides for investment in 5 research areas:

1. Improved access

2. more efficient and reliable networks

3. better integrated transport and land use

4. improved transport safety

5. improved environmental and social well-being

Annual process



Achievements over last year

- 1 Sector research activity class review implemented
- 132 Active research projects managed
- 40 Research reports published
- 12 Transitional research projects contracted
- 5 *NZTA Research* newsletters published

2011/12 Research Programme

23 topics approved and currently being procured:

- ▶ 4 public transport
- ▶ 3 freight
- ▶ 1 network optimisation
- ▶ 5 asset management
- ▶ 6 safety
- ▶ 2 performance monitoring
- ▶ 2 economic analysis



Key Issue

How do we get AOs more engaged?

- ▶ We need AOs to:
 - Help define research topics
 - Assist with procuring research
 - Participate on research project steering groups



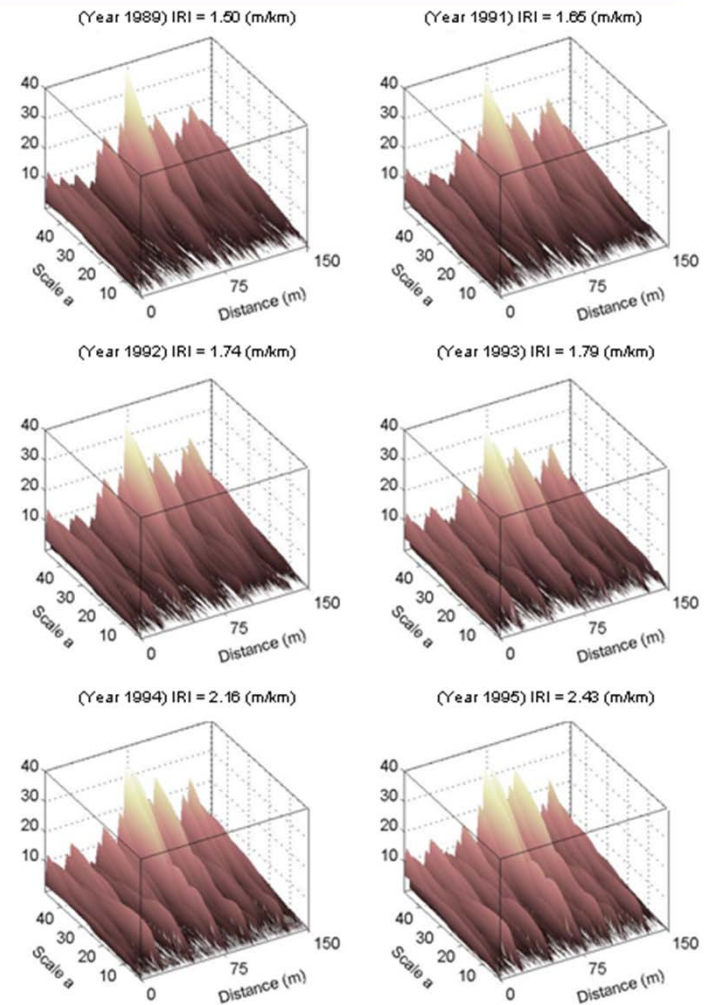
2. Evaluation of the value of NZTA's Research Programme

Key objective -

- ▶ Assess how valuable the findings of NZTA research reports, published from 2005 to 2009, are for end users

Secondary objectives –

- ▶ Identify barriers and enablers to successful uptake and use
- ▶ Recommend improvements for the dissemination and promotion of research findings



Key results of the evaluation

NZTA research is of substantial value to end users in all areas of the transport sector although more use is at the conceptual end of the 'use' continuum:

- ✓ 100% of respondents learnt something new from NZTA's research
- ✓ 71% of respondents used the research to inform new or existing policies, programmes or further research
- ✓ 67% of respondents used the research to develop/improve standards, guidelines and specifications

Key results of the evaluation (cont)

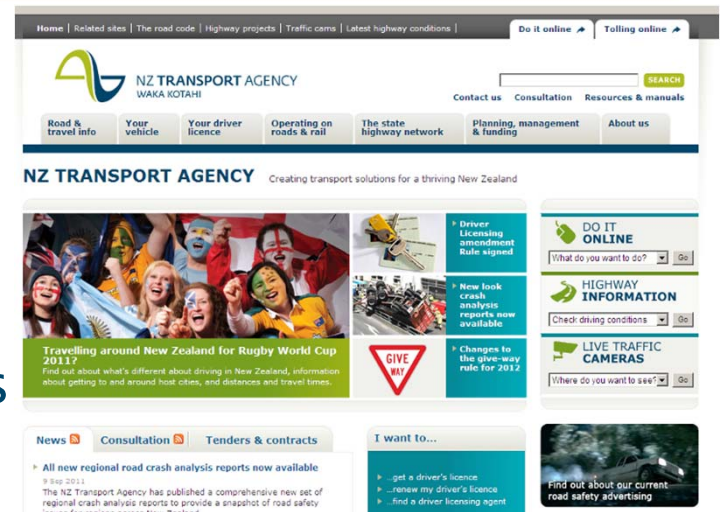
- ▶ less evidence of its use in policy and programme decision making
- ▶ ‘use’ needs to be planned into the whole research process and beyond
- ✓ NZTA research is highly regarded because it provides practical, innovative NZ-based solutions
- ▶ active promotion and implementation of findings is a collective responsibility
- ▶ NZTA’s website is not considered user friendly



NZTA implementation plans

NZTA is:

- ▶ working to give more prominence to the Research Programme on its website
- ▶ Requiring promotion to be planned as part of research proposals
- ▶ installing NZTA research owners as the chairs of research project steering groups – in order to have a more direct influence on the promotion of the findings by researchers
- ▶ aiming for more people to:
 - read the newsletter
 - register on the email link and
 - use the search engine for research report



3. Availability of information

What	Where
Research reports published since 2005	Freely available from: http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/results.html?order=2&catid=16
Research reports published prior to 2005	PDF scans available by contacting karen.johnson@nzta.govt.nz
Notification of newly published research reports	Contact karen.johnson@nzta.govt.nz to be added to the email notification list
List of active research projects	http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/research/active-projects.html
Quarterly NZTA research newsletters	http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/nzta-research/index.html
Spreadsheet listing all published research reports with keywords	To assist with searching for research on specific topics: http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/research/docs/published-research-reports-20110630.xls

Other useful links – NZTA

What	Where
The research programme framework	http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/research/docs/research-programme-framework-2011-12.pdf
NZTA's investment and Revenue Strategy	http://www.nzta.govt.nz/planning/programming/docs/nltp-2012-15-irs.pdf
Evaluation report on NZTA's Research Programme	Research Report 450:
NZTA research agreement	http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/research/docs/research-agreement.doc
Peer review guidelines	http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/research/docs/peer-review-guidelines.pdf
Research report style guide	http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/research/docs/nzta-research-report-style-guide.pdf

Other useful links - external

What	Where
Australasian road research register	http://www.roadresearch.com.au/ - includes NZTA funded research
Transportation Research Board (US) newsletter	http://www.trb.org/Publications/PubsTRBENewsletter.aspx - profiles some NZTA research reports
Government Policy statement on land transport funding (GPS)	Strategic context for the research programme: http://www.transport.govt.nz/ourwork/KeyStrategiesandPlans/GPSONLandTransportFunding/
Government electronic tendering service (GETS)	Research projects procured through GETS: http://www.gets.govt.nz/default.aspx?show=HomePage

Summary

- NZTA's research is for the benefit of New Zealand
- NZTA's National Programmes Team will assist you with any queries:
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