

## **The Human Impact Route Assessment (HIRA) tool**

Jennifer Thompson, Lora Colussi, Matthew Bennett, Victor Trumper, Dane Mikovic  
and Simon McLeish

Vicroads

### **Abstract**

HIRA is here to help make better and more transparent decisions about the routes chosen for heavy vehicle construction traffic. This tool has been designed to promote the choice of heavy vehicle traffic routes that prioritise the safety of vulnerable road users and minimise the impact on the daily lives of communities during periods of construction related disruption. HIRA emerged from a unique inter-agency collaboration associated with the construction of Melbourne's Metropolitan Rail Tunnel.

### **Background, findings, conclusion**

In December 2016, over 100 delegates converged in Melbourne for the Vulnerable Road User and Truck forum. The forum was held in anticipation of the unparalleled disruption associated with the construction of Melbourne's Metropolitan Rail Tunnel (MMRT). It is projected that over a five-year period, there will be one truck movement every three minutes as spoil is carted from below Melbourne's CBD. This forum resulted in an exceptional collaboration between Victoria's transport and safety agencies, local government, contractors, and non-government agencies.

One of the working groups formed at the forum was tasked with exploring how to prioritise vulnerable road user safety by improving route selection. This group developed The Human Impact Route Assessment (HIRA) tool. HIRA is a structured decision making tool that fills an important gap; current standards and codes of practice referred to in the preparation of construction traffic management plans focus on movements at the approach of and alongside a work site. They do not provide guidance on how to select and develop a suitable heavy vehicle route to and from the worksite. HIRA provides a structured means of weighting different truck-route options for MMRT and other large scale projects that introduce significant number of heavy vehicles to an existing road network. The tool supports the identification of safer routes and helps to identify where mitigation efforts are required. Most importantly, HIRA is a tool that enables conversations with stakeholders by making previously implicit decisions, transparent and explicit. At this presentation the tool will be showcased along with pilot program results.