



NEWS RELEASE 14 February 2018

Queensland Government partners with iMOVE CRC to deliver Australia's largest on-road cooperative vehicle trial to boost safety on Australian roads

Validating the effectiveness of emerging vehicle technologies is the primary goal of a new research project announced by Queensland's Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR), the intelligent transport systems cooperative research centre iMOVE CRC and the Queensland University of Technology (QUT).

This research will be conducted as part of the Queensland Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems (C-ITS) Pilot Project which is currently Australia's largest on-road testing trial of cooperative vehicles and infrastructure.

The Pilot will involve around 500 private and fleet vehicles retrofitted with C-ITS devices that enable vehicles to 'talk' to vehicles, infrastructure, road operations systems and cloud based data sharing systems.

The large-scale, 3.5 year project will commence with the design and equipment-testing phase, with the nine-month on-road trial to be staged in Ipswich, Queensland in 2019.

Queensland Transport and Main Roads Minister Mark Bailey said the C-ITS devices provided safety warnings about a range of conditions – for example, a pedestrian crossing at a signalised intersection, a hazard on the road or a queue ahead.

"We are testing these vehicles to help understand the implications for our infrastructure and drivers, and the improvements to automated vehicle performance when they can talk to other vehicles, infrastructure and our cloud-based data sharing systems," Mr Bailey said.

"These rapidly developing technologies have potential to significantly reduce crashes and associated gridlock, vehicle emissions and fuel use.

"I look forward to seeing how these new technologies deliver safety benefits."

Professor Andry Rakotonirainy from QUT's Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety – Queensland, who are conducting the safety evaluation component of the Pilot, said the participating vehicles will be fitted with a range of wireless and sensor technologies designed to share the vehicle's position, speed and other data, as well as receive road and traffic data from cloud-based sharing systems.

"Validating the effectiveness of C-ITS for safer, and more efficient, transport in a real environment will be examined as part of this project, as well as analysing driver behaviour, acceptance of, and willingness to use, the technology".

"By utilising real-life traffic situations, including roadworks zones, arterial roads and motorways, we have an opportunity to consider if the system operates in the way it is intended, and does it result in the desired behaviour responses for all drivers," said Professor Rakotonirainy.



iMOVE CRC's Christensen said the newly-established cooperative research centre was delighted to be working with TMR, QUT and other stakeholders on such a promising field trial.

“Over the next decade, vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure connectivity will enable the development of a smarter and more productive transport system in Australia and worldwide,” he said. “This will make it safer and easier for people to move around, as well as boost productivity for business and industry.”

“We acknowledge the leading role that the Queensland Government’s Department of Transport and Main Roads is playing on this hugely important project, and look forward to seeing how cooperative vehicles can make our roads safer for all users.”

The C-ITS Pilot project is part of the larger Cooperative and Automated Vehicle Initiative (CAVI) being delivered by TMR to help prepare for the arrival of new vehicle technologies with safety, mobility and environmental benefits on Queensland roads.

The CAVI project will also include the testing of a small number of cooperative and highly automated vehicles on South East Queensland roads, as well as investigate options for utilising these emerging technologies to benefit pedestrians, cyclists and motorcycle riders.

For more information visit www.qld.gov.au/cavi or <https://imovecrc.com/>.

For more information and interviews

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ABOUT iMOVE CRC

The iMOVE CRC is a consortium of 44 industry, government, and research partners engaged in a concerted 10-year effort to improve Australia’s transport systems through collaborative R&D projects. It will help companies — and Australia — be more competitive, productive, and prosperous.

iMOVE and its participants will deliver research, outcomes and products to:

- **reduce road congestion, fuel use, emissions, accidents and fatalities**
- **improve freight co-ordination**
- **improve productivity and international competitiveness**
- **improve lifestyle and wellbeing**