

# Transport Infrastructure Product Evaluation Scheme (TIPES)



TIPES making  
new technology  
adoption  
Safe  
Reliable  
Consistent

## Frequently asked questions

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## What is TIPES?

The Transport Infrastructure Product Evaluation Scheme (TIPES) is a process aimed at providing an independent fit-for-purpose assessment of innovative road products. TIPES is intended for the evaluation of products that fall outside the scope of established standards and specifications.

The TIPES process was originally developed by the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads. Several other road agencies have operated their own type of approval schemes for particular applications but these do not guarantee or allow usage in other parts of the country. This forces suppliers to seek evaluation in all states which becomes a costly process. ARRB took over administration of the TIPES process with the objective to develop a single national product evaluation scheme, thus reducing the need for separate evaluations of an applicant's product by multiple agencies.

A pilot for a national scheme being administered by ARRB commenced in October 2013 with the evaluation of road construction products. Lately, ARRB has been considering expansion of the scheme to other areas of product evaluation in particular road traffic devices and intelligent traffic systems.

The scheme is administered by ARRB on a full cost recovery basis through the fees paid by applicants. The scheme is a mechanism by which applicants can obtain an independent evaluation and an expert technical opinion of new products. This information can be provided to various road agencies with the potential to reduce the need for separate evaluations of an applicant's product for multiple agencies.

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## What products does TIPES cover?

TIPES is intended for innovative technologies, products, equipment and processes such as:

Non-standard road construction products, e.g. non-traditional stabilisers, ultra-thin surfacing products, pothole fillers, etc.

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## Who acknowledges TIPES?

TIPES has been endorsed by all Australian state and territory road authorities. It has gained support from local government road agencies as well as private operators. Below is a summary of its supporters:

### State and Territory governments

- Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) SA
- Department of Transport NT
- Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR)
- Roads and Maritime Services NSW (RMS)
- VicRoads
- Department of State Growth TAS
- ACT Government.

### Local government

- Queensland Local Roads Alliance
- IPWEA QLD
- Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA).

### Industry peak bodies including:

- Australian Asphalt Pavement Association
- Auststab.

ARRB is actively seeking endorsement of TIPES by other road agencies including local government and private operators.

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## Who is an independent technical expert?

A person who has satisfied ARRB that they:

- have expert knowledge in the particular field
- are not at the date of an application, and have not ever been involved in any way with the invention, design, production, manufacture, sale or distribution of the product.
- have no present or past pecuniary or other interest in the manufacture or sale of the product or any relationship, direct or indirect, with the supplier or manufacturer of the product.

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## What is a product evaluation panel?

The persons appointed by ARRB to make an initial assessment of a product.

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## What is the register?

The register of technical opinions maintained by ARRB for products evaluated under TIPES.

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## What is a registered product?

A product in respect of which a technical opinion has been placed on the register.

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## What is a registered testing authority?

- an authority registered by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) to test in the relevant field; or
- an organisation outside Australia recognised by NATA through a mutual recognition agreement.

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## What is a technical evaluation?

The Technical Evaluation of a Product by a panel of Independent Technical Experts.

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## What is a technical opinion?

A report detailing the outcomes of an independent assessment of product performance against an agreed set of performance criteria. The technical opinion is drafted by a panel of independent technical experts in relation to a product issued by ARRB.

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## Who decides if the product will be registered?

ARRB decides if the technical opinion for a product will be registered after due and extensive consideration of recommendations made by the product evaluation panel and independent technical experts.

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## When can an applicant claim product registration?

- Only when the technical opinion for a product is placed on the register can the applicant claim or imply that the product is a registered product.
- The applicant may only state that a product is a registered product if the applicant also states, at the same time, the registration certificate number of the registered product.
- The applicant may make copies of the complete certificate of registration including all its terms and conditions. Misleading use of the certificate or reference to a registered product may result in suspension of the registration.

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## How does the technical assessment process work?

There are four separate phases in the assessment process, with a hold point at the end of each phase. Work on each successive stage will not proceed beyond the hold point without written confirmation from each of the technical experts and the applicant.

During the assessment, should there be the need to modify the system defined by the applicant (for example as a result of failure of the system to meet the requirements) the content of the assessment and additional work required will be reconsidered by ARRB.

### Phase I: Application

1. Application is submitted using the required form with payment of application fee.
2. Application and supporting documentation is reviewed and assessed by ARRB.
3. Applicant is advised if application and supporting documentation is adequate and the application can progress to Phase II.

### Phase II: Initial assessment

1. Applicant pays the initial assessment fee listed in the schedule of fees.
2. ARRB appoints a product evaluation panel.
3. Product evaluation panel members assess the application and documentation provided by the applicant and specify any additional laboratory testing required.



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4. Applicant is informed of any additional laboratory testing requirements.
5. The applicant supplies the test results for the required additional laboratory tests to the product evaluation panel.
6. Based on the information provided by the applicant, the product evaluation panel provides a written opinion, as to whether the Product has sufficient potential to be considered by road authorities for inclusion in a field performance trial.
7. The opinion of the product evaluation panel will include a description of the requirements for the field performance trial.
8. The applicant is to negotiate the construction of a field trial with a road authority and inform the product evaluation panel of a proposed suitable trial. The product evaluation panel determines if the proposed trial site is suitable to commence Phase III.

## Phase III: Field performance trial

1. The product evaluation panel develops an evaluation plan for the field performance trial and assesses the amount of the field performance trial assessment fee having regard to the specific evaluation plan. The applicant pays the fee. The amount of the fee is product specific and will depend on the particulars of the trial.
2. The product evaluation panel observes the installation of the product during the construction of the field performance trial.
3. The product evaluation team monitors the field performance trial as required over its agreed duration.

## Phase IV: Registration of technical opinion

1. At the end of the field performance trial, the product evaluation team assesses the performance of the product based on the outcomes and all data gathered during the evaluation process.
2. A technical opinion on the performance of the Product is prepared.
3. The technical opinion is registered and a certificate of registration is issued to the applicant.

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## How do I apply for a product evaluation?

By filling in the application form at [arrb.com.au/TIPES](http://arrb.com.au/TIPES) and providing the following information:

- The applicant's legal entity name including Australian Company Number and/or Australian Business Number, (as appropriate).
- The number of years in business operation.
- The name of a contact person.
- The applicant's business address and full contact details, telephone, fax and email.
- The Product name and any other name(s) commonly used to refer to it.
- Full details of the ownership of all intellectual property in the product including, if applicable, details of patent, trademark, or design registrations.
- If the applicant is not the owner of any intellectual property in the product, details of the right/entitlement of the applicant to use the Product, including licences or sublicences.
- The name and address of the manufacturer or supplier of the product and the location(s) where the product is produced/manufactured.

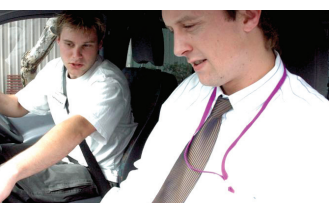
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## What documentation is needed to apply?

You will need supporting information including:

- intended use of product
- claimed performance of product
- quality assurance documentation
- past performance data (track record if applicable)
- materials safety data sheet.

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## What are the fees?

1. Application fee (non-refundable):  
\$3,600\*
2. Initial assessment fee (non-refundable):  
\$10,500 (indicative)\*\*
3. Field performance trial assessment fee:  
\$30,000 (indicative)\*\*\*
4. Registration fee:  
\$500

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## How do I make TIPES work for a state road agency?

As a state or local government road agency, request a TIPES certificate of registration from the proponent of a product as a condition of use/purchase/trial, where:

1. A new or substantially modified product is being considered for use.
2. A product in existing use will be used in a completely new or innovative way.
3. The product has not already been evaluated for a particular application consistent with TIPES.

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## How do I apply if I have a product I want to get certified?

Apply for assessment of a product by submitting the TIPES application form and supporting documentation as set out in the Guide for Applicants [arrb.com.au/TIPES](http://arrb.com.au/TIPES)

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## Who do I contact for more information?

Contact our helpful support team at:

P: 0488 665 838

E: [TIPES@arrb.com.au](mailto:TIPES@arrb.com.au)

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\*An additional application fee may be charged and will be payable by the applicant to cover additional administrative costs for ARRB, occasioned by any deficiency in the completion of the application or in the supply of required accompanying documentation.

\*\*The indicative fee is estimated based on the assessment of the outcomes of a typical laboratory trial. The fee EXCLUDES costs associated with laboratory testing.

\*\*\* Cost estimate based on the typical costs associated with the witnessing of the construction process, the periodic visual inspections of the field trial and the drafting of the final report and technical opinion document. The field performance trial assessment fee for a particular product will be determined by ARRB in consultation with the product evaluation team and the applicant.

### About ARRB

ARRB Group Ltd (ARRB) provides research, consulting and information services to the road and transport industry. ARRB applies research outcomes to develop equipment that collects road and traffic information and software that assists with decision making across road networks. ARRB is the leading provider of road research and best practice workshops in Australia. ARRB Group Ltd | ABN 68 004 620 651

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