Agency details

Agency number: 253
Agency title: Institute of Highway and Traffic Research
Start date: 1960
End date: 1969
Creation: Council meeting 9 May 1960 (resolution 60/52)
Abolition: Board meeting, Institute of Highway and Traffic Research, 30 September 1969

Administrative history note:
On 9 May 1960 Council approved the establishment of an Institute of Highway and Traffic Research. (resolution 60/52) This followed a joint study conducted by the University and the Department of Main Roads into the need to extend the scope of road research in New South Wales along the lines of similar research programs operating in the United States of America. On 2 August 1960 the NSW State Government on the recommendation of the Minister for Highways, the Hon. P F Hills, authorised the payment of 200,000 pounds from the County of Cumberland Main Roads Fund and the Country Main Roads Fund to establish the Institute of Highway and Traffic Research. The money was to be used for buildings, equipment, furnishings and fittings. Professors W R Blunden (Traffic Engineering) and D F Orchard (Highway Engineering) were put in charge of the Institute. Its aim was conduct research on highway and traffic engineering on behalf of agencies such as the NSW Department of Main Roads and the Australian Road Research Board. (SRF - Highway and Traffic, Schools of; V328)

Howard M Sherrard, the former Commissioner of the Department of Main Roads, was appointed Executive Director of the Institute (resolution 62/64). On 10 May 1963 the Institute of Highway and Traffic Research commenced operations. The Board consisted of Professor A H Willis as Chairman, Professors Blunden and Orchard as Directors, and Sherrard as Executive Director. The Institute was located in King Street, Randwick on the site of an old tram depot previously under the control of the Department of Government Transport and which had been transferred to the University by the State Government. (V328)

On 14 March 1966 Council adopted a resolution (resolution 66/37) reconstituting the management of the Institute of Highway and Traffic Research. The Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor A H Willis, remained as Chairman of the Board; Professor Blunden was appointed part-time Director for an initial period of two years, with duties commencing on 27 May 1966; and Professors D F Orchard, A G Hammer, C J Milner and R H Myers were appointed members of the Board. These duties as part-time Director were in addition to Professor Blunden’s usual ones as Professor of the School of Traffic Engineering and as Head of that School. By 1969 the Institute had, apart from Professor Blunden as Director, sixteen professional and support staff members associated with it. On 30 September 1969 the Board of Directors decided to suspend the operations of the Institute because of financial concerns and its research activities were transferred to the Schools of Traffic Engineering and Highway Engineering. (980/81 File: 00016779) Professor Blunden’s appointment as Director ended on 14 October 1969. (CN956/3 File: 5601071E)
Unregistered superior agencies:

Unregistered subordinate agencies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record series created by this agency (in chronological order by start date):</th>
<th>Date range of creation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>594 Booklet Leaflet Collection of the Institute of Highway and Traffic Research</td>
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