



**CRC Construction Innovation**  
BUILDING OUR FUTURE

**THIS EVENT IS PART OF  
THE AUSTRALIAN  
INNOVATION FESTIVAL**



*Industry Seminar  
Tuesday, 26 April 2005  
Brisbane City Hall*

## *Bringing Innovation to Facility Management*



**Ebsworth & Ebsworth** LAWYERS

**'yes'**  
**OPTUS**

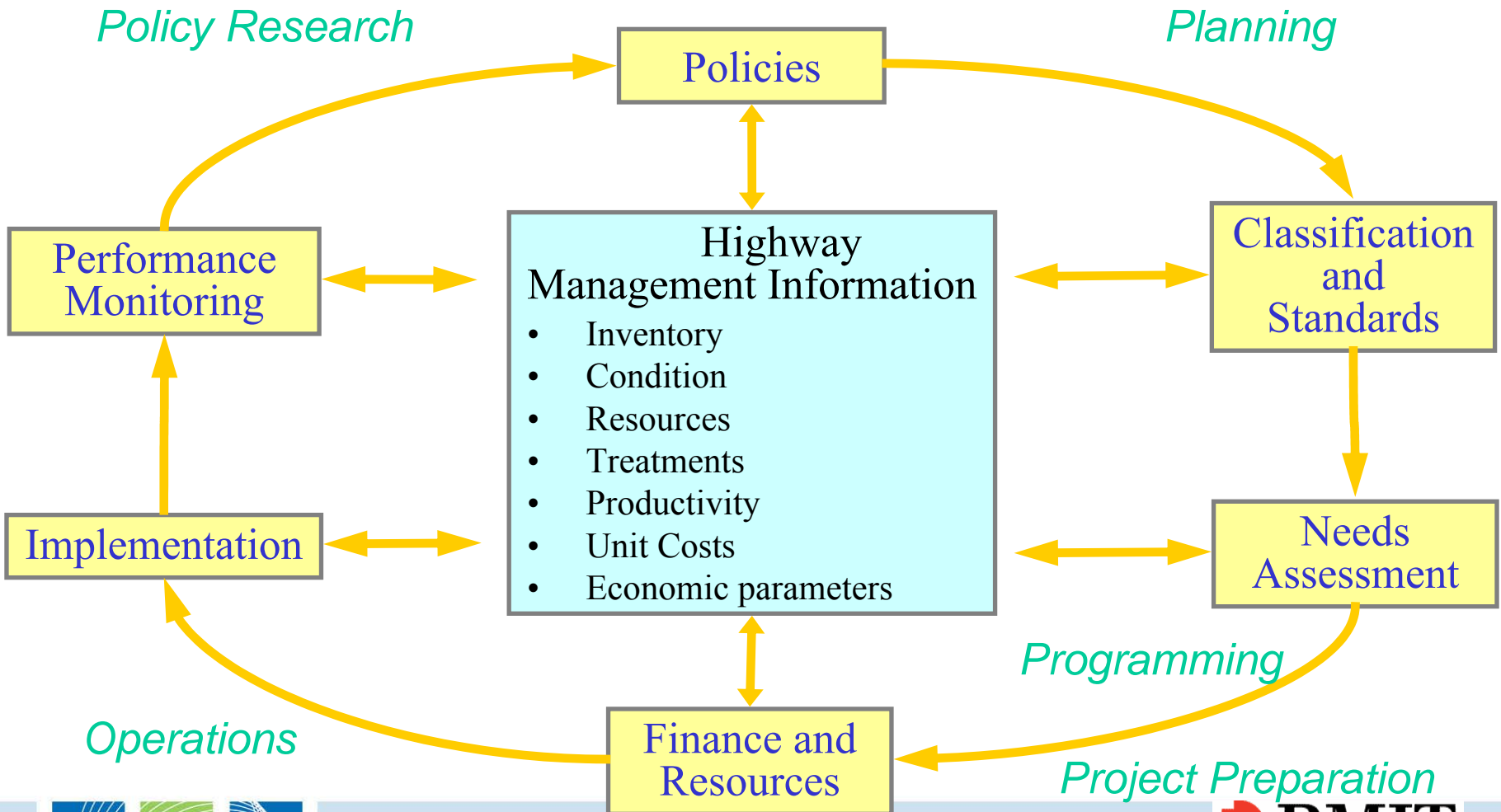
# Decision Framework for Road Development and Maintenance Investments

*Neil Robertson*  
*Queensland Department of Main Roads*

# Investment Decision Framework

- Road system is an important economic asset
- Assets require sustainable business management
- Investment decisions will consider future performance of the investment
- Performance:
  - of the infrastructure (physical & economic)
  - of the vehicle fleet
  - effect (benefits) to road users
- Costs and benefits:
  - to the agency
  - to the road users
- effective decision making requires a network of knowledge and decision support skills

# Road Management Cycle



# Investment Information

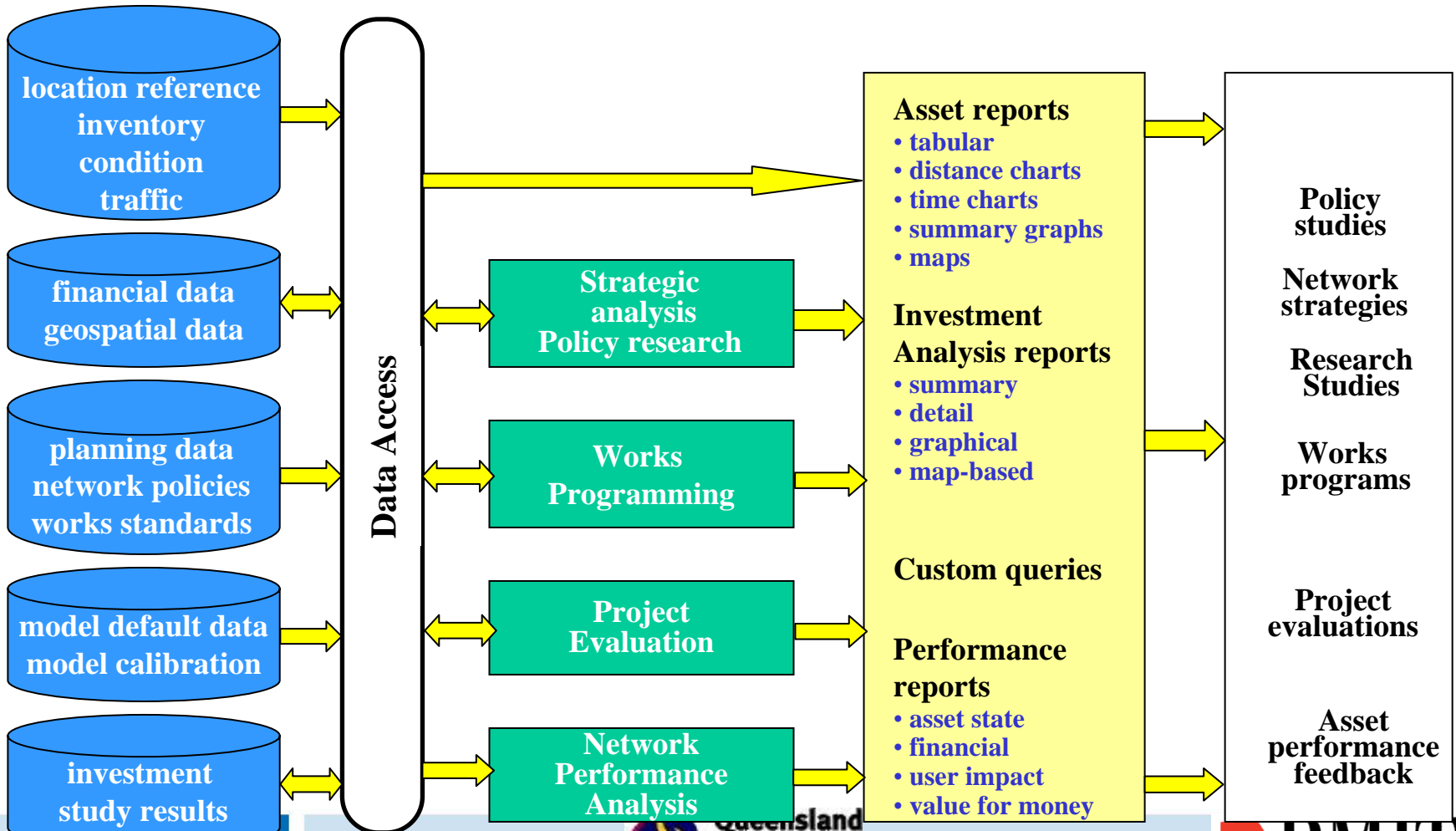
- Identifying deficiencies in the road system
- Predicting future trends in deficiencies
- Developing strategic plans and policies
- Developing forward plans for improvement and upkeep works
- Programming works into budget years
- Conducting appraisals of project proposals
- Predicting impact and consequences of investment options
- Researching local road transportation needs
- Researching future impacts of operational or technological options

# Road Asset Decision Support

The decision support system should:

- support Planning, Programming, Preparation and Policy Research functions
- present relevant, reliable, up to date information
- predict future impacts on the transport system and its users
- compare competing investment or policy choices
- consider both the infrastructure and the community
- allow for new work, maintenance and upgrading
- provide a reliable calibrated modeling capability
- assess investment impacts over life cycles
- provide monetary and non-monetary measures of investment effectiveness
- identify optimum choices between alternative investments

# Road Asset Management System



# Background

- Australia has billions of dollars worth of civil infrastructure assets as roads, bridges, railways, buildings and other structures. Road assets alone are valued at around A\$ 140 billion.
- As condition of assets deteriorate over time, billions of dollars are spent annually in asset upkeep, which amounts to expenditure in the order of A\$27 million per day.
- Increasing priority conflicts between capital and recurrent funding needs
- Public demand for greater accountability in using public funds
- Need for risk management approaches that consider both financial and non-financial impacts



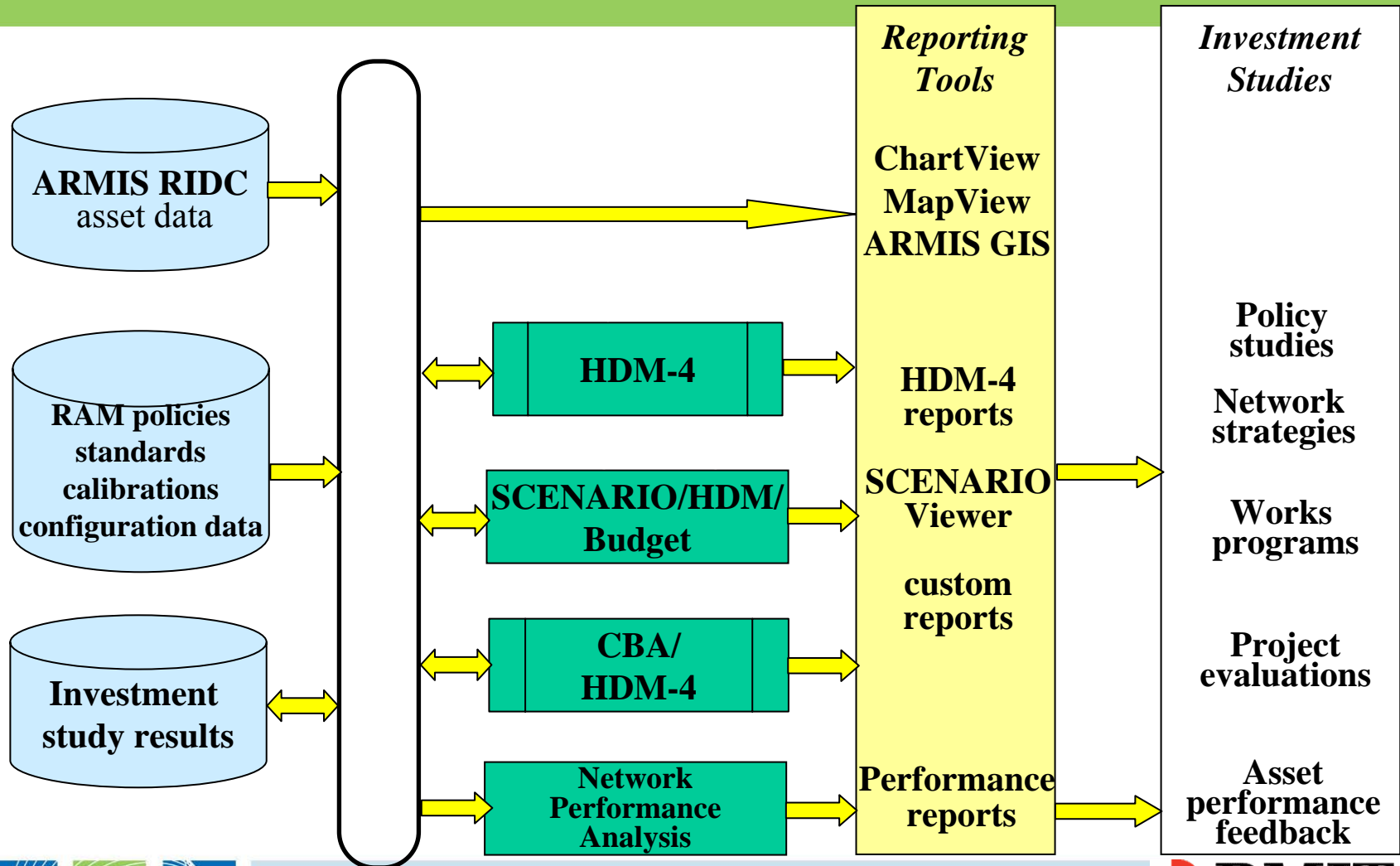
# Some QLD Road Investment Statistics

- Road network
  - Total 180,000 km
  - State Controlled 34,000 km
- Replacement value of State Controlled network: \$25 billion
- Annual net depreciation: \$524 million
- Five year works program (RIP):\$5.6 billion

# QLD Main Roads Road Asset Management

- Investment planning and asset management takes a medium to long term view: 10 to 20 years+
- Network management strategies to deliver levels of service consistent with network performance targets
- Investment decision support relies on
  - Comprehensive, relevant, quality asset data
  - Investment modelling tools: agency and user impacts over asset life cycles
- Decision makers expect reliability in forecasting, investment risks understood

# Main Roads' Road Asset Management System: The Future



# CRC Project Aim

## Investment Decision-Making Framework for Infrastructure Asset Management

Develop elements of a systematic investment decision-making framework for infrastructure asset management which takes into account economic justification, social and environmental considerations, while incorporating uncertainty and risk assessment.

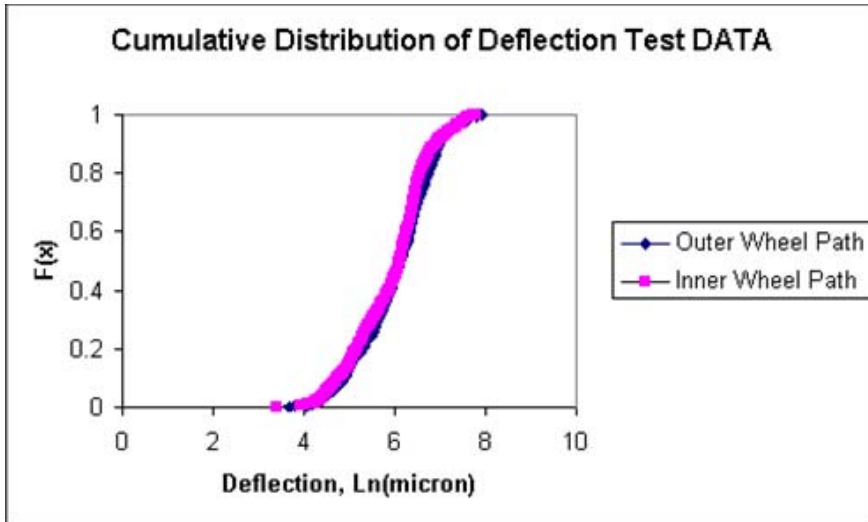
# Initial Research Tasks

- **Research Task 1: *The Development of a Procedure for Optimising Data Collection***
- **Research Task 2: *The Development of a Method for Risk-Adjusted Expenditure and Reliability Assessment***
- **Research Task 3: *The Development of Pavement Prediction Models of road conditions for Queensland***

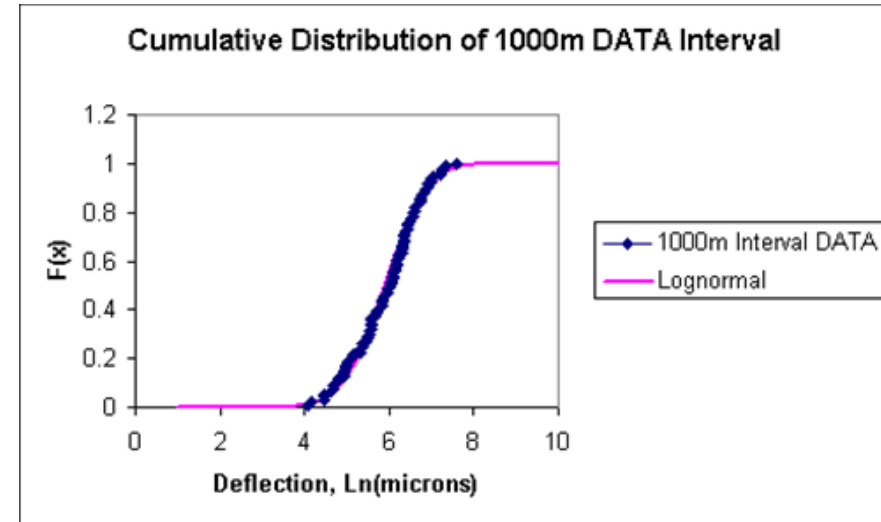
# Optimising data collection

- Focus on strength test also the most expensive
- Studied probability distribution of FWD data (200m intervals)
- Interpretation of consistency of data
- This method identifies 1200m without much





$$LN(D_o) = N(6.05, 0.805)$$



$$LN(D_o) = N(5.913, 0.795)$$

# Optimising data collection

- Potential lower costs for network level data collection

## Example: **Structural data collection**

Under current practice (200m test intervals), a statewide survey would cost \$5million.

This research justifies 800m test intervals, costing \$1.3 million for a statewide survey.

thus, a potential 75% saving on data collection costs, (approx. \$3.7 million annually) or increase data collection length by four times.

- Main Roads WA spends \$800,000 annually for structural data collection at 800m intervals.



# Calibrated Models for Road Condition Prediction

- Model calibration is a major component of the investment analysis process (in HDM4)
- Global need for an improved model calibration procedure
- Method used here is unique: utilises actual variability in asset data
- Investment simulation using stochastic model inputs based on the actual network asset data
- Results are encouraging
- Method yields calibrated models that closely replicate the actual variability in network condition
- Potential for an auto-calibration method

# Calibrated Models for Road Condition Prediction

- Adopted HDM4 deterioration model for predicting the rate of change in road pavement roughness developed by The International Study of Highway Development and Management (ISOHDM 2001)
- This study used the probability-based method and Monte Carlo simulation technique
- Measured roughness was modelled for 1700km length on Bruce Highway in Queensland

## HDM4 Model for Annual Rate of Change in Roughness

$$\Delta RI = K_{gp} (\Delta RI_s + \Delta RI_c + \Delta RI_r + \Delta RI_t) + m K_{gm} RI_a$$

$K_{gp}$  = calibration factor, Default value = 1.0

$\Delta RI$  = total change in roughness

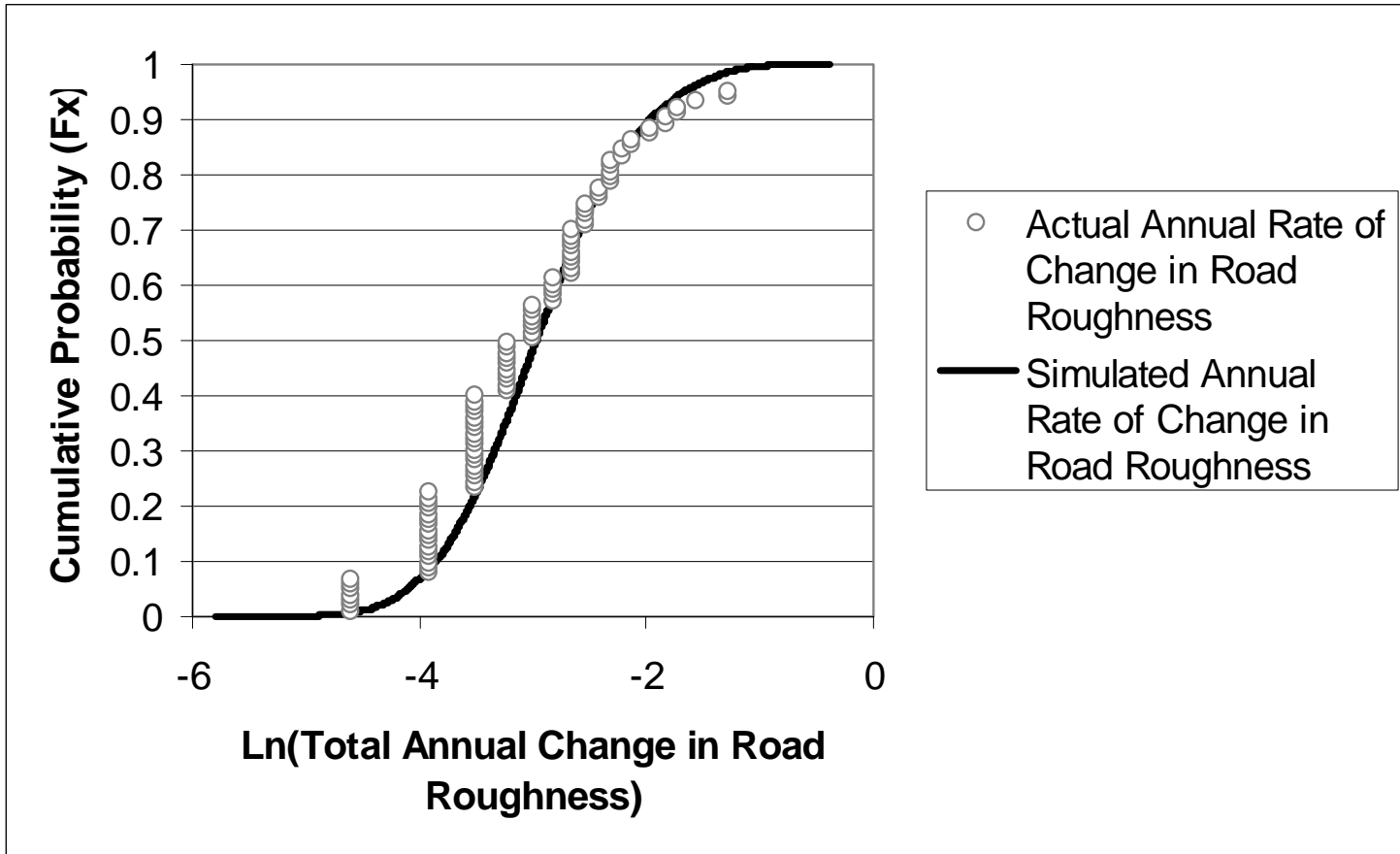
$\Delta RI_s$  = change in roughness due to pavement strength deterioration due to vehicles

$\Delta RI_c$  = change in roughness due to cracking

$\Delta RI_r$  = change in roughness due to rutting

$\Delta RI_t$  = change in roughness due to pothole

( $m k_{gm} RI_a = \Delta RI_e$ ) = change in roughness due to climatic condition



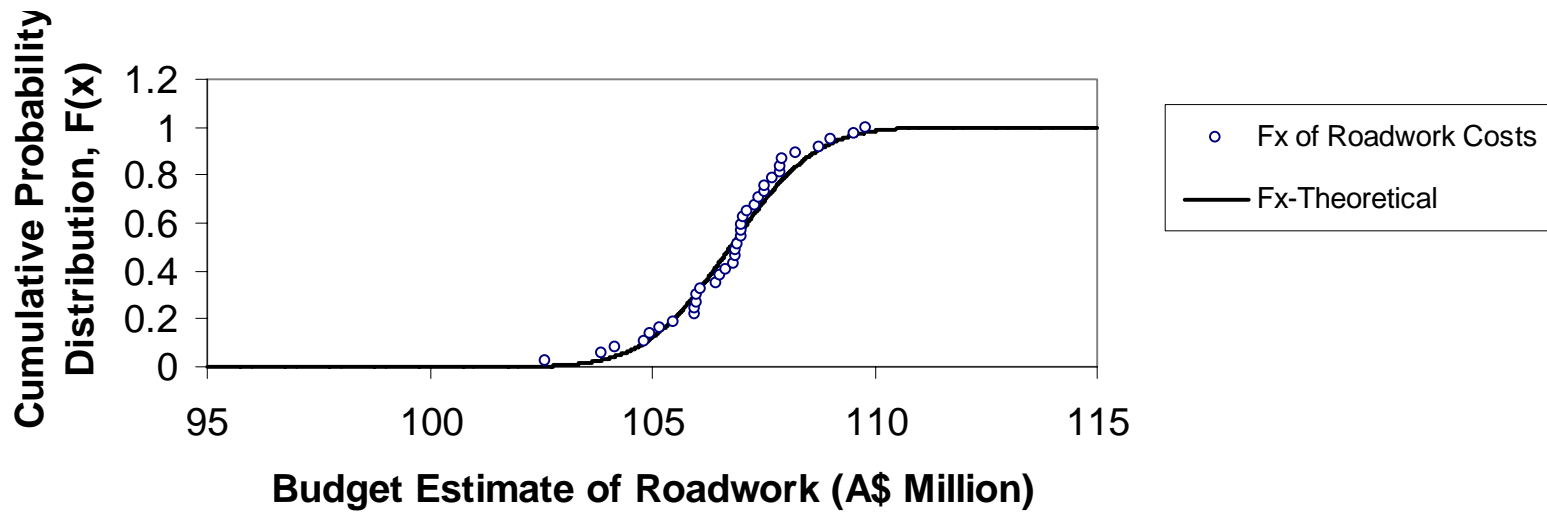
# Assessment of Investment Risk

- Road investment tools can predict the life cycle costs for construction and maintenance road projects within a networks.
- Most inputs to such analysis are variable, and consequently the predicted life cycle cost is variable, and demonstrates a probability distribution.
- In this study, critical variable inputs are simulated, in order to assess the variability of the output costs.
- To demonstrate the methodology, only the variability of pavement strength was considered in the analysis.

# Assessment of Investment Risk

- Can assess the levels of risk associated with the budget estimate in relation to pavement strength  
eg. Produce budget estimates for a project life cycle cost with 5% probability of exceeding
- This method can be used for any critical data input to assess risk association.
- Consequently risk associated with investment decisions can be assessed

### Twenty Five-year Budget Estimate for Maintenance and Rehabilitation of a 92km National Highway of Queensland



# Conclusion

- Queensland Main Roads is reviewing and improving its planning and investment decision support processes for road asset management
- Many system improvement opportunities
- CRC project contributes to 3 beneficial outcomes:
  - Cost effective data acquisition practice, with better understanding of data quality
  - Understanding reliability of future budget predictions
  - Improving credibility of predictions of network performance and of future needs for works



# Conclusion

- Characterisation of the statistical properties of certain road asset data can be used to select an optimal test sampling plan, which is affordable and still statistically relevant.
  - will lower the cost of network level data collection
- Variability properties can be used for calibrating deterioration prediction models in predicting deterioration rates of road infrastructures to suit local conditions.
  - Model calibration is a major component of the investment analysis process and this unique stochastic method closely replicate the actual variability in network condition.

# Conclusion

- The risk-adjusted assessment in budget/cost estimates can be used in assessing the variability of budget/cost estimates arising from the variability and uncertainty of critical input variables.
  - will improve confidence in future affordability of investment decisions.