



# Ethical Dilemma

## Transport

Description	Examine assumptions about the role of transport as a component of professional working life
Task Type	In-class activity, tutorial, group assignment
Time	45 minutes-1 hour, with some previous preparation
Level	Any level
Class Size	Small or large classes, but of a size that group presentations are possible. Class should be divided into groups of 4-6 students
Learning Outcomes	<p>Students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Discuss some specific aspect or problem of transportation as a component of professional life</li> <li>✦ Demonstrate an awareness of aspects of transport relating to ethics</li> <li>✦ Demonstrate an awareness of aspects of transport relating to sustainability</li> </ul>
Method	Group discussion and identification of a specific problem area associated with transport and its relationship to professional work. Investigation of the problem based on a range of resources (maybe from the internet). Preparation of a group presentation about the problem, maybe including suggestions for a solution.
Concluding Activity	Group presentation
Assessment	Group presentation and/or written report
Tips	There are lots of resources, particularly online. Try to think critically about aspects of transportation that you may usually just take for granted.

## Student Instructions

You might like to consider these questions as a starting point for your investigation, but you may prefer to formulate different questions. It is up to you and your team.

- ✦ Is it 'better' to use public transport (train, bus) or private transport (car) to get to work?
- ✦ What does 'better' mean in this context?
- ✦ How about going to university: is this the same problem?
- ✦ What will you/we/Australians do when petrol costs \$5 per litre? \$10 per litre?
- ✦ If it's cheaper to drive to work, why would you even consider public transport?
- ✦ What about 'active transport' modes of getting to work (bike, walking)?
- ✦ Should you live close to work? Should you 'go to work' at all, or are there viable alternatives? What about work while you are getting to work?
- ✦ Is it cheaper to build infrastructure for public (railways) or private transport?
- ✦ Who benefits from investment in private as opposed to public transport?

# Information Sheet

## Transport

### Context and Questions

As a beginning professional in the finance or business world you will spend a substantial amount of your time at work, laying the foundations for a successful career. But additionally you may find that you are spending substantial amounts of time getting to and from work. Is there anything you can do about this or is it a necessary evil? Looking beyond your own situation to the broader picture, how should the town or city in which you are living set up arrangements for transporting people to and from work? And indeed what direction should Australia, or the world as a whole, take in terms of transport infrastructure? There are a range of different views on these questions and just about any aspect of transport arrangements and policies: but how can we navigate between them in a responsible way?

### Additional Information

Almost every profession in the business area has some input into transport policies, for example:

- ✱ Accounting: financial cost of alternative modes of travel, resources consumed
- ✱ Actuarial: risks of accidents with various modes, long-term health of people
- ✱ Business: opportunities and costs for businesses relying on getting staff to work
- ✱ Economics: costs of various transport policies at the city, state and national levels
- ✱ Finance: alternative modes of financing transport infrastructure
- ✱ Human resources: ensuring that a workplace has a happy and productive staff
- ✱ Management: arrangements for various alternative transport policies
- ✱ Marketing: persuading stakeholders to support particular transport policies

According to a variety of surveys, the average amount of time that people devote to travel is just over one hour per day (between about 0.8 and 1.5) in a wide range of societies of differing wealth; from villages in Tanzania and Ghana to cities in Scandinavia and Japan. This is referred to as the (average) 'time travel budget'. Of course, different people in a particular location will spend different amounts of time on their daily travel.