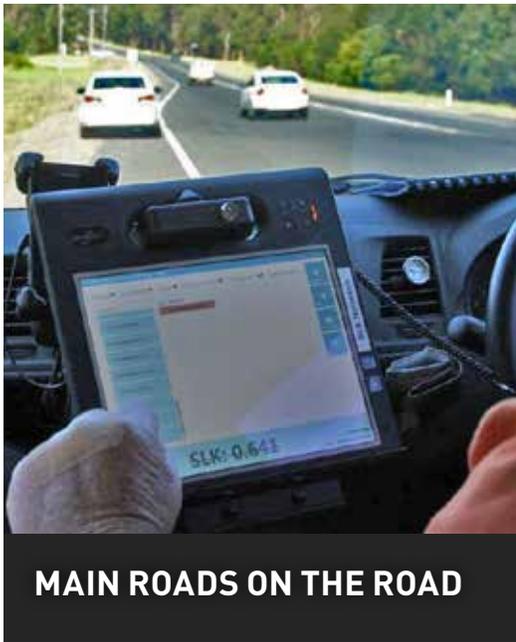


# XPLORE DRIVES MOBILE COMPUTING SUCCESS AT MAIN ROADS WA



**MAIN ROADS ON THE ROAD**

*"Main Roads covers a huge area and tablets have allowed our staff to remain connected with the network, in real time. Its advantages mean we will continue to deploy and utilise Xplore®'s F5 platform as a key component of our mobility technology solution"*

- Kim McCutcheon

Maintenance Systems Manager, Main Roads WA

Company **Main Roads Western Australia**  
Industry **Transportation & Govt**  
Location **Australia**



## BACKGROUND

Main Roads Western Australia's role in WA as the State road authority of one of the most widely geographically distributed road networks in the world, is to manage and provide road access to all road users across the State.

Main Roads WA works closely with portfolio colleagues and Local Government to plan, build and maintain an integrated and efficient world class road transport network of just over 18,500 kilometres. It manages more than \$41 billion of assets (road assets valued at \$39 billion) that support the needs of all road users across the State. For more information visit: [www.mainroads.wa.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au)

## CHALLENGE

### 2.5 Million Square Kilometres of Road Management

Main Roads Western Australia is responsible for WA's highways and main roads which represent almost 30% of the State's total assets. It is one of the largest geographically spread road agencies in the world covering 2.5 million square kilometres. In order to service such a vast network, Main Roads manages its business through its Head Office based in East Perth and seven regional offices strategically based throughout the State.

Mobile computing solutions are an integral technology component for the maintenance programs of Main Roads utilised for recording assets, and recording and tracking maintenance issues and requirements on site.

Each Main Roads region used a different system to manage the capture and repair of defects on the network. Most were paper-based with data entry managed in the office. Those who did use car computer systems used Toughbooks which made safe mounting of the units difficult. An integrated solution that provided immediate connectivity and accessibility of field users to the offices was required.

## SOLUTION

### Xplore F5 Tablet PCs and In-Vehicle Solutions

Approximately 240 units of Xplore F5 tablet platforms were purchased in late 2012 with ongoing acquisition. The in-vehicle solution included a tailored mounting solution for close to 200 vehicles across a range of vehicle types.

Key operating requirements in selecting Xplore tablets were identified:

- Screen viewability
- Ease of use
- Rugged format
- System capability
- Ability for multi vehicle type install

Further, essential in seeking a mobile solution for Main Roads was compliance with OH&S requirement of the Department of Transport and key requisites included:

- Simplicity of installation
- Security
- A system that was non-invasive on the operation of the vehicle

## BENEFITS

**Reduction in paper-based systems**

**More accurate reporting  
Improvements in time management leading to increased productivity**

**Enhanced data management across Main Roads WA network**

*"With such a large geographical area to cover and so many different vehicle types, Datanet did an outstanding job of managing this challenging rollout and delivering the Australian Design Rules certification which is legally required throughout Australia to ensure that vehicles continue to be safe for the occupants and pose no greater threat to other road users."*

- Brett Gross  
Director of Sales - ANZ, Xplore



An Xplore Platinum partner, Datanet Asia Pacific Pty Ltd, was selected as the mobility solutions supply and integration partner by Main Roads WA.

“Datanet has collaborated closely with Main Roads in a hardware advisory role and has worked methodically with the customer’s project team to select the correct configuration of device and to specify the in-vehicle installation requirements,” said Datanet’s Jerry Clarke. “We managed the full in-vehicle installations for all vehicles stationed at the various Main Roads depots. As well as the two Perth Metro depots, installations were performed state-wide, stretching from Kalgoorlie and Esperance in the East, to Albany in the South and up to Derby and Kununurra in the North.”

These vehicle installations included a mix of thirty seven different makes and models of passenger vehicles, utes and trucks, all of which required model-specific in-dash or back-of seat mounts. Installation also included the supply and mounting of the F5 vehicle dock, along with required blank-it screen blanking module, the wiring of vehicle power to the dock and the integration of dash-mounted USB connectors (for keyboard and other USB-based peripherals).

“Datanet was required to adhere to strict project management guidelines to ensure that vehicles were not kept waiting so that they were off the road for the minimum amount of time. All installations were fully documented to allow Department of Transport VDU approval submissions to be generated and passed through to the Department of Transport’s Vehicle and Safety Standards Department,” stated Clarke. Approximately two hundred vehicles were originally fitted with the Xplore kit with additional kits being installed in line with the ongoing vehicle replacement program.

According to Kim McCutcheon from Main Roads, who was responsible for the deployment of the Xplore tablets and the implementation of the Maintenance Management Information System software, “The install required was across multiple types of vehicles and we had very strict standards to uphold. Xplore provided the right technology solution and just as importantly, the right installation, providing us with the ideal in-vehicle docking / mounting solution across a substantial number of vehicles”.

## RESULTS

### Reduced Paper, Increased Accuracy, Improved Efficiency

The deployment of the F5 tablets has directly improved the quality of Main Roads’ data management across its network. Further it has seen communication benefits for field users improving continuity and even staff IT skills have been enhanced. The ease of access to Main Road systems has streamlined processes, improved accuracy and increased productivity.

“The reduction in paper-based systems has been the biggest advantage for Main Roads, bringing with it a host of benefits from accuracy of reporting to productivity and time management and efficiency”, stated Kim.

“Team members have more control of outcomes which makes for far more advanced ownership and accountability. And their jobs are easier – Field users can now have access to files and documents without having to carry boxes of information and can send and/or receive information live”, he said.

“Main Roads covers a huge area and Xplore tablets have allowed our staff to remain connected with the network, in real time,” said Kim. “Its advantages mean we will continue to deploy and utilise the F5 platform as a key component of our mobility technology solution”.

According to the Director of Mobility Solutions at Xplore, “Western Australia is my home State so I was delighted to be involved in specifying a mobility solution for Main Roads WA and to welcome this prestigious client to our growing list of vehicle based end-users.”

“With such a large geographical area to cover and so many different vehicle types, Datanet did an outstanding job of managing this challenging rollout and delivering the Australian Design Rules certification which is legally required throughout Australia to ensure that vehicles continue to be safe for the occupants and pose no greater threat to other road users”, he said. Xplore mobility solutions empower organisations to improve their workflows, efficiency and Customer service by consistently delivering best in class computing platforms, peripherals and support. Our goal is to deliver a complete eco-system of components that allow the seamless use of our Tablets in the office, in the vehicle and in the field. In conjunction with our vast experience in truly ‘work-anywhere’ computing, we can deliver solutions that few others are capable of.