ROADS AND PAVEMENTS CAREERS | QUEENSLAND

WHAT'S A MATERIALS LAB TECH?

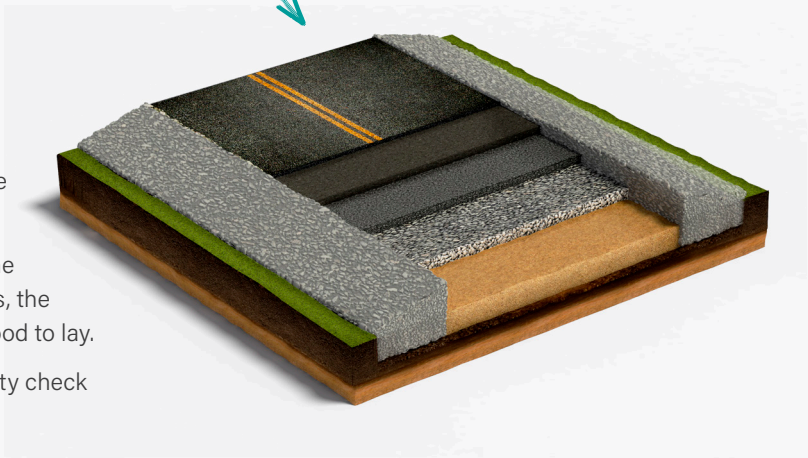


THE SCIENCE JOB ON A ROAD CREW. YOU TEST WHAT THE ROAD'S MADE OF AND MAKE SURE IT LASTS. EARN WHILE YOU TRAIN. NO UNI, NO DEBT.

HOW DO WE KNOW A ROAD WON'T FALL APART?

EVERY ROAD GETS TESTED BEFORE IT'S TRUSTED.

Test the materials used to build roads



A road is only as good as the stuff it's made from; asphalt, gravel, crushed rock and bitumen. Get the mix wrong and it cracks, pot-holes and fails early. So before any of it goes down, it gets tested.

That's your job. You take samples from the plant and the site, then run tests; how strong it is, how tightly it packs, the right temperature, the right mix, and sign off that it's good to lay.

Part scientist, part detective, all hands-on. It's the quality check the whole project relies on.

NOT JUST A DESK JOB

Half your week is in the lab running tests; the other half is out on site collecting samples in the fresh air. Real science, with real consequences, and no two days the same.

Techs cut a core from the finished road and run it through tests — sizing the stone through sieves, checking strength and density — before the mix is signed off.

THE PAY

GROW WITH YOUR SKILLS

Start around $55k–$65k while you train. Qualified techs earn $75k–$95k. Senior and lab-manager roles push past $120k.

TIME & SKILLS

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN

No uni. No student debt. You get paid from day one while you complete a nationally recognised Certificate over 2 years — and your employer funds it.

WHAT YOU NEED

ENJOY MATHS AND SCIENCE

A driver's licence, a White Card, and an interest in how things work. No degree needed, you learn the science hands-on, on the job.

WHERE COULD A CAREER IN ROADS TAKE YOU?

FURTHER THAN YOU THINK.

WANT IN?

Scan the code. See real jobs near you. Come chat at the booth, we'll tell you exactly where to start.

A CAREER THAT GROWS WITH YOU.

You start as a trainee and level up as you master more tests and take on more responsibility. Some techs end up running the whole lab or bridge into engineering. Others move into materials engineering, site QA, even a uni pathway later, with credit for what you've already done.

TRAINEE LAB TECHNICIAN Earn while you study | 2 years	**$55-65K**
QUALIFIED MATERIALS TECHNICIAN Certificate done | asphalt, soil, concrete	**$75-$95K**
SENIOR TECHNICIAN (NATA SIGNATORY) Trusted to certify test results	**$95-115K**
LAB SUPERVISOR / QUALITY MANAGER Runs the lab | signs off big projects	**+$200K**

*Salary ranges are indicative of industry salary ranges as of August 2026.

WRITE THE ROAD'S REPORT CARD

You're the quality check the whole project trusts, from the Bruce Highway to Brisbane 2032 venues.

LAB AND OUTDOORS

Half your time testing in the lab, half out collecting samples on site. Not stuck at a desk, and away jobs pay allowances on top.

A SCIENCE CAREER, NO DEBT

A nationally recognised qualification that works Australia-wide and is always in demand.

IS THIS YOU?

TICK THE ONES THAT SOUND LIKE YOU.

- [ ] You liked science at school, or at least the experiments
- [ ] You're good with numbers, or want to be
- [ ] You want to know why things work, and why they fail
- [ ] You don't want to sit at a desk all day
- [ ] You want to earn now, not owe later

TICKED THREE OR MORE? THIS COULD BE YOUR JOB.



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