ROADS AND PAVEMENTS CAREERS | QUEENSLAND

WHAT'S A PROFILER OPERATOR?



NO UNI. NO DEBT. ONE OF THE BEST-PAID JOBS ON A ROAD CREW. YOU DON'T EVEN NEED TO FINISH YEAR 12. HERE'S HOW IT WORKS.

FIRST UP — WHAT EVEN IS A ROAD?

ROADS ARE BUILT IN LAYERS. PROFILERS STRIPS THE OLD ONE OFF.

A road is built in layers, like a cake. Over time the top layer wears out. Before a new surface can go down, the old worn one has to come off.

That's what a profiler does. It's a big machine with a spinning drum of teeth underneath. It grinds the old road off and loads it straight into the truck. Like a giant cheese-grater for roads. You drive it and control it. That's the job. Some people call it a "cold planer".



The profiler grinds off the old top layer and drops it straight into the truck. What's left is ready for a fresh new surface.

NOT JUST SHOVEL WORK

Modern profilers run on GPS and automatic depth control down to the millimetre. This is high-tech machine operating, the kind of gear that built the road you're learning to drive on.

THE PAY

SIX FIGURES, FAST

Start on about $65k–$85k. Once you're experienced, $120k+. On the big machines, with overtime and away work, some hit +$200k.

TIME & SKILLS

EARN FROM WEEK ONE

No uni. No debt! You get paid while you learn. Most people reach profiler operator in about 2–4 years.

WHAT YOU NEED

A DRIVER'S LICENCE

You don't need to finish Year 12. Just a White Card and a driver's licence to start. In QLD, if you're under 25, the government pays for your training.

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.

Nobody starts as a profiler operator. You join the crew and work your way up. Every step pays more and puts you on a bigger machine. And it doesn't stop there. Become a supervisor, a foreman, or run your own contracting business.

CIVIL LABOURER / TRADES ASSISTANT Day one, no experience needed	**$65–$75K**
TRUCK DRIVER / SKID-STEER OPERATOR Get your HR licence + machine tickets	**$85–$110K**
PROFILER OPERATOR Trained up on the specialist machine	**$120–$150K**
SENIOR / LEAD OPERATOR Big projects | overtime | away work	**UP TO $200K**

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

BUILD STUFF THAT LASTS

Drive on roads you and your mates built. From the Bruce Highway and the Coomera Connector, to the roads into Brisbane 2032.

GET PAID TO TRAVEL

There's work all over Queensland. Away jobs pay extra on top. See the state and get paid for it.

SKILLS THAT TRAVEL TOO

Your machine tickets work anywhere in Australia, and they're always needed. An extra 300,000 workers are needed by 2027.

IS THIS YOU?

TICK THE ONES THAT SOUND LIKE YOU.

- [ ] You'd enjoy working with a good crew of mates
- [ ] You're into machines and tech
- [ ] You can stay locked in on a task for a full shift
- [ ] An outdoor job suits you better than an office
- [ ] You want a path to six figures with no uni debt

TICKED THREE OR MORE? THIS COULD BE YOUR JOB.



WANT IN?

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

WHERE COULD A CAREER IN ROADS TAKE YOU?

FURTHER THAN YOU THINK.