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AUTOMATIC COUNTER EQUIPMENT

Deciding on the frequency of counting that is required can help determine the value of manual counts vs the use of automated equipment.

The relatively high upfront costs of automatic counters can be balanced out over time due to lower on-going operating costs (where the equipment can be secured and maintained) and reductions in staff time in terms of carrying out manual surveying and counting.

There are a range of motorised and non-motorised (e.g. bike, pedestrian) counters of traffic volume that are available. The choice of these will be localised and the following factors can play a role:

- Price/ value for Money
- Commercial availability of the product
- Skill/ time needed to download/ analyse data (physical collection or 'back to base' automation)
- Longevity of battery/power storage
- Capacity to 'hide' counters in the environment to protect from theft, vandalism, weather conditions
- Level of accuracy required
- What is being counted (e.g. walkers only, walkers and bike riders, bike riders only, horse riders, trail bike riders etc.)
- How long the count is occurring (e.g. permanently, temporarily)
- Environmental conditions

There are options to purchase commercially available trail counters in Australia, or to purpose build counters to suit conditions and budget.

Examples of commercially available trail counters in use in QLD:

PRODUCT	TECHNOLOGY
TRAFx (CANADA)	
TRAIL COUNTER	PASSIVE INFRARED
VEHICLE COUNTER	LOW-FIELD GEOMAGNETIC
ISLAND RESEARCH (AUSTRALIA)	
TRAKER-COUNT	PASSIVE INFRARED
ECO-COUNTER (FRANCE)	
PYRO-BOX	PASSIVE INFRARED
ZELT	INDUCTIVE LOOP
TUBE	PNEUMATIC TUBE
SLABS	PRESSURE PLATE
MULTI-NATURE	COMBINATION (2 OR MORE)