# Lirui Guo

Lirui Guo is a PhD student at Monash University with a strong interest in how technology can benefit society. Originally from Luohe in central China, he moved to Melbourne after Year 9, encouraged by his mother's belief that Australia offered broader educational opportunities. His early curiosity about building, mathematics and problem-solving led him towards engineering, where he could combine practical design with analytical thinking. At Monash, Lirui's research focuses on human-computer interaction within intelligent transport systems, especially conversational systems for shared autonomous vehicles. He uses large language model-powered conversational agents to study how people might communicate with future self-driving vehicles, He is interested in designing AI, robots and transport technologies that are human-centered, useful, adaptable and supportive of groups such as older adults and children.

Lirui hopes to build an academic career combining research and teaching, inspired by the many supportive teachers who guided him. Outside his studies, he enjoys reading and belongs to an informal book group. His interests reflect a broader commitment to education, curiosity and the practical use of emerging technologies to improve everyday life.

## What I gained from the Conference

The 2026 National Transport Conference reshaped my understanding of transport as not just a technical field, but one shaped by decisions about whose needs are prioritized and how trade-offs are managed. Sessions on active transport, digital access, community personas, and women's safety highlighted the importance of inclusive, people-centred planning and the limitations of relying on averages or professional assumptions. AI further reinforced this perspective, demonstrating its potential to improve transport practice while reminding us that technology cannot replace human experience. For my own research, I left with a stronger commitment to connecting emerging technologies with practical, inclusive decisions that improve people's everyday lives.

I learned that the ITE-ANZ program Austraffic Worldwide Learning Opportunity, has been supporting students each year for more than a decade. I found that both surprising and deeply moving. To me, this is what education is about: senior professionals supporting those who are just beginning, and experienced people helping the next generation. Having received so much help, support, and care, I now feel it is my responsibility to pass the same on to the next generation of engineers and transport professionals.