



# Regional Road Group Report

## November 2023

## Roads

### **Local Government Transport and Roads Research and Innovation Program (LGTRRIP)**

WALGA has published the first of a series of LGTRRIP projects, in collaboration with Main Roads WA and the National Transport Research Organisation. The projects address the selection of low-cost road safety improvements, considerations for sealing Local Government Roads and the selection of sustainable road construction practices. A further four projects have commenced, and these will address the use of crumbed rubber modified bitumen's and reclaimed asphalt products in asphalt and sprayed seal applications, design and construction guidance for the use of crushed recycled concrete and a catalogue of typical pavement structures for local roads.

### **Update of User Guides for calculating the cost of road wear for defined freight tasks**

Due to recent escalation in road construction costs, WALGA has initiated an update of the unit rates that are used to underpin the methodologies in the User Guides for calculating the cost of road wear for defined freight tasks on sealed and unsealed roads. WALGA will use the data collected in the upcoming unit rates survey by the Grants Commission to determine the appropriate rates for the guides.

### **Condition Assessment of Roads of Regional Significance**

Proposals to conduct the condition assessment work in the South West region of WA have been received by the WALGA Infrastructure Team and are currently undergoing internal evaluation. The winning proposal is expected to be announced in November 2023 with a likely project commencement date in December/January.

### **Road Rail Interface Agreements**

Rail Interface Agreements are a requirement under the *Rail Safety National Law (WA) Act 2015*. A model *pro forma* agreement between Local Governments and Arc Infrastructure is nearing the end of negotiations and should be available for Local Government review and action soon. This agreement updates various elements of the existing agreements, particularly adding clarification on types of works and the responsibilities of both parties. As soon as this is complete, WALGA will liaise with each affected Local Government to provide advice around the new agreement.

## Funding

### **State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2023/24 – 2027/28**

Working groups have been established to progress implementation of the commitments made in the agreement in relation to:

1. Increasing application of the Safe System approach to the local road network
2. Employment of Aboriginal people; and
3. Use of recycled materials in road construction and maintenance.

Terms of Reference have been prepared and WALGA is in the process of recruiting senior officers with expertise in each area to participate with further membership to be added in the new year.

### ***Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) Model Revisions***

Work continues to harmonise the MCA models used by Regional Road Groups to prioritise project proposals for funding under the Road Project Grant funding pool. The proposed changes reflect the new focus areas of the State Roads Funds to Local Governments Agreement, while still allowing for flexibility to recognise the significant differences between regions. The review processes for each region have commenced with the intent of delivering a new model over the course of 2024.

### ***Business Case for Safety Improvement to High Speed Sealed Local Government Roads***

The proposed investment by Federal and State Governments to improve the level of safety provided to users of high speed, sealed Local Government roads in peri-urban and rural areas has been included in the State Budget submission and an advocacy program is being developed in conjunction with program partner the RAC.

## **Road Safety**

### ***LG Stars: Road Safety Ratings for Local Government Roads Tool***

The LG Stars tool is now complete and available for Local Governments to use. Including both a paper version and online application, the tool provides an easy-to-use, cost-effective, and repeatable method for assessing the safety of Local Government roads. Ultimately, the tool will support the inclusion of road safety considerations in long-term works programs and investment decisions, while providing a baseline assessment of the safety of the Local Government road network. More information about the tool and access to the paper and online versions can be found here: <https://www.roadwise.asn.au/local-government/lgstars.aspx>.

### ***Road Safety Council Update***

The Annual Report on Council Activities 2022-23 was reviewed and approved at the September meeting of the Road Safety Council (the Council). That report was tabled in Parliament, by the Minister for Road Safety, on 11 October 2023 [tp+2418+\(2023\)+road+safety+council+-+annual+report+2022-23.pdf \(parliament.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/tp+2418+(2023)+road+safety+council+-+annual+report+2022-23.pdf).

At the September meeting, the Council also discussed: the development of the next Driving Change Action Plan, evaluation of Road Trauma Trust Account funded programs, unregistered vehicles and unlicensed motorists. WALGA presented the *LG Stars Safety Ratings Tool for Local Government Roads*.