

Regional Road Group Report

April 2024

Roads

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

Three projects have been completed and a further four are progressing. Two workshops were recently held to seek project proposals for future works. The team is also seeking Local Government volunteers to serve on the Operations Team that will prioritise projects and to serve as project leaders.

Condition Assessment of Roads of Regional Significance

Work continues on the Condition Assessment of Roads of Regional Significance in the South West Region (approximately 2,100km) with video data collection complete for three Local Government areas and the remaining data collection programmed for late March and early April. Following data collection the consultant will perform the defect logging component of the program with work expected to be complete by May/June 2024.

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. Additionally, negotiations regarding Interface Agreements with the PTA are also underway. As soon as these negotiations are complete, WALGA will liaise with each affected Local Government to provide advice around the new agreement.

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. NTRO will be appointed to update the guides and to compile an online calculator.

Funding

Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) Model Revisions

The WALGA Infrastructure Team has progressed the work to harmonise the MCA models used by Regional Road Groups to prioritise project proposals for funding under the Road Project Grant funding pool in the Goldfields-Esperance, Gascoyne, Kimberley, and South West regions. Additionally, work on the MCA models has commenced in the Wheatbelt South and Great Southern regions. The proposed changes to the MCA models 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.

Transport

Regional Freight Strategy

WALGA accepted an invitation to participate in the Steering Committee overseeing the development of a new Regional Freight Strategy for Western Australia. This is an opportunity to influence the development of this strategy including ensuring that the first and last

kilometre issues are not overlooked. It is currently planned to complete the review by the end of 2024, requiring significant, focussed efforts.

Bus Stop Infrastructure

The partnership agreement has been in place from 2018/19 to 2022/23. WALGA has commenced a review of the current Agreement and has consulted a cross section of Local Governments to inform negotiations with the PTA for a new Agreement. WALGA has had an initial meeting with the PTA and the first draft has been completed.

Road Safety

Road Safety Council Update

The Road Safety Council Communiques highlight the key discussions and considerations of the Council meetings. View the Communiques via the following links:

[Road Safety Council Meeting Communiques \(www.wa.gov.au\)](http://www.wa.gov.au)

RoadWise Councils

Fifty-eight (58) Local Governments have now registered as a RoadWise Council since August 2023. Seventy two percent (72%) registered with a Resolution of Council and 28% via a Declaration. There is a spread of RoadWise Councils across all ten Regional Road Group regions. In terms of road safety activity, 50% of registered RoadWise Councils recorded activity in the first quarter and 65% during the second quarter of 2023-24.

RoadWise Recognised

Upon registration, RoadWise Councils become eligible to participate in the new RoadWise Recognised. This initiative is designed to recognise the positive influence of RoadWise Councils on road safety, benchmark and monitor their road safety actions and create opportunities for knowledge sharing and collaboration through the allocation and accumulation of Ribbons and Points.

The Ribbons rating (to a maximum of five) indicates the application of a holistic approach to road safety across governance, management and operations. Ribbons are allocated annually. Points signify the effort and expected relative effectiveness of the road safety actions delivered by RoadWise Councils. Points are allocated on a quarterly basis.

In the first six months, RoadWise Councils have recorded a total of 110 activities and have been awarded 60 Ribbons and 5,920 Points, collectively. Results will be communicated back to individual RoadWise Councils via their Road Safety Advisor. The annual Ribbon status will be announced later in the year. To date there are seven Councils with a three Ribbon status, 11 with a 2 Ribbon status and 16 with a one Ribbon status.

Asset Management

Road Assets and Expenditure Report 2022/23

Data collection for the 2022/23 Road Assets and Expenditure Report is nearing completion and initial analysis underway. WALGA is also seeking proposals from consultants to evaluate the current Road Assets and Expenditure Report data collection and report preparation processes and, once identified, to undertake the work to improve the delivery of the Road Assets and Expenditure Report. This project will identify opportunities to streamline the data collection and support better data reporting. A contract is expected to be awarded in April 2024, with the initial scoping and information gathering element of the project completed by the end of the Financial Year 2023/2024.