

Regional Road Group Report

June 2024

Roads

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

Practitioners guidelines for the use of crumbed rubber modified asphalts and sprayed seals, the use of Reclaimed asphalt pavement and design and construction guidance for the use of crushed recycled concrete, will be published over the next quarter. WALGA together with Main Roads and NTRO are currently developing the next cycle of projects to be prioritised for funding over the next two years. Local Governments are encouraged to submit project ideas via the LGTRRIP website.

Condition Assessment of Roads of Regional Significance

The condition assessment survey of significant roads in the South West region is nearing completion. All the collected data will be uploaded to the relevant LG data base and made available online to each of the LGs. The next stage will include the Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne regions.

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 nearing completion. 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

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.

Each of these groups has held at least one meeting during the quarter.

Achievements of the State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement

To provide foundational data to demonstrate the need for and value of State Government road funding, the Infrastructure Team has commenced a project to generate spatial data and provide a visual record of the projects completed on Local Government roads using the Road Project Grant funding component of the State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement.

The initial phase is an evaluation of work completed through the 2018/19 – 2022/23 State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement. The Regional Road Group secretariat in each region has been requested for a list of projects completed using Road Project Grants in spreadsheet form. This data will then be collated and prepared as spatial data. Work on this project is expected to be completed in September/October 2024.

GIS Mapping of the Rural Road Safety Business Case Alignments

To support advocacy efforts to improve safety on Local Government roads, WALGA has commenced a project to map the alignments of the rural roads identified for improvement in the Rural Road Safety Business Case. Work on developing the maps is likely to be completed in early June 2024.

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

A new Regional Freight Strategy is being developed by the WA Department of Transport with WALGA represented on the project steering committee. Two extensive workshops have been held involving industry representatives. A further ten workshops in regional areas are being planned which will provide Local Governments a direct voice to articulate the strategic freight needs and opportunities in each area.

Bus Stop Infrastructure

A bus stop infrastructure partnership agreement between WALGA, on behalf of Local Governments, and the Public Transport Authority has been in place since 2018/19. 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.

Active/Green Transport Discussion Paper

In response to receiving numerous reports and requests regarding Active Transport (AT) challenges and requirements, WALGA is considering establishing an advocacy position for AT. To facilitate this, WALGA is developing a comprehensive discussion paper covering all modes of Active Transport, including biking, walking, and scootering.

This discussion paper aims to provide an overview of the current state of AT infrastructure and facilities, ranging from physical features to existing policies. It will gather and analyse information about AT-related problems, requirements, and needs within Western Australia.

The development of the second part of this paper involves extensive consultation with Local Governments. This consultation process is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

Road Safety

RoadWise Councils

As at May 2024, there were sixty-five (65) Local Governments registered as a RoadWise Council. Forty-six or 71% registered with a Resolution of Council and nineteen or 29% via a Declaration. There is a spread of RoadWise Councils across all ten Regional Road Group regions. In terms of road safety activity, 76% (44) of registered RoadWise Councils recorded road safety activity between January and March 2024.

RoadWise Recognised

The RoadWise Recognised Advisory Committee met in February 2024. Points, which signify road safety actions undertaken, were allocated to 34 RoadWise Councils. The Points that were allocated reflected actions delivered across the different areas of the [RoadWise Framework](#). This then converted to Ribbons which were awarded in recognition of a holistic approach to road safety across governance, management, and operations. In this way, the allocation of Points and Ribbons is designed to encourage local road safety toward better and ultimately best practice.

Asset Management

Road Assets and Expenditure Report Update Project

A scope of work was developed to evaluate the current Road Assets and Expenditure data collection and report preparation processes, identify options for improvement, and undertake an update of the processes and products produced in the Road Assets and Expenditure Report. Two submissions were received in response to an invitation to tender are currently being evaluated. This project will identify opportunities to streamline the data collection, support better data reporting and will ultimately result in a more intuitive and user-friendly interface to access the data. A contract is expected to be awarded in June 2024, with the initial scoping and information gathering element of the project completed in August 2024.