



Regional Road Group Report

August 2024

Roads

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

Work progressed to develop practitioners guidelines for the use of crumbed rubber modified asphalts and sprayed seals, the use of reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP) and design and construction guidance for the use of crushed recycled concrete, that will be published over the next quarter. The team is also preparing webinars that will be delivered to introduce these guides.

Condition Assessment of Roads of Regional Significance

The condition assessment survey of significant roads in the South West region has been finalised and all the collected data uploaded to the relevant LG data base and made available online to each of the Local Governments. The tender period for the next stage, to undertake a condition surveys of Roads of Regional Significance in the Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne regions, has closed and project proposals are now under evaluation.

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.

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. Correspondence to each Local Government detailing the measures that will be required during the current financial year are scheduled for distribution in August. The first, base line, data collection for use of recycled materials will commence in September using the existing annual Road Assets and Expenditure data survey.

Preparation was commenced for the August State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee meeting, that will, amongst other things, consider the project delivery performance of each sub-program and make appropriate adjustments.

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. Most of the Regional Road Group secretariats in each region have responded with a list of projects completed using Road Project Grants in spreadsheet form. Once all this data has been received, the data will then be collated and prepared as spatial data. Work on this project is expected to be completed in October/November 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. WALGA is seeking opportunities for Local Governments to provide direct input to this study via Zone meetings, Regional Road Groups and other opportunities.

Bus Stop Infrastructure

The bus stop infrastructure partnership agreement between WALGA and the Public Transport Authority (PTA) was due for review. WALGA consulted a cross-section of Local Governments to guide negotiations with the PTA. Following an initial meeting with the PTA, the review and consultation process was completed, and the revised version has been sent to PTA for their consideration before submission to State Council for endorsement.

Active/Green Transport Discussion Paper

In response to numerous reports and requests about Active Transport (AT) challenges, WALGA is exploring the creation of an advocacy position for AT. To support this, WALGA is preparing a discussion paper that will address biking, walking, and micromobility devices. This paper will overview current AT infrastructure and policies and analyse issues and needs across Western Australia.

The consultation process is currently underway. Local Governments from both metropolitan and regional areas have been engaged to ensure a comprehensive understanding of their situations across all regions.

Road Safety

RoadWise Councils

As of 1 August 2024, there were sixty-six (66) Local Governments registered as a RoadWise Council. Forty-eight or 73% registered with a Resolution of Council and eighteen or 27% via a Declaration. There is a spread of RoadWise Councils across all ten Regional Road Group regions. In terms of road safety activity, 77% (51) of registered RoadWise Councils recorded road safety activity between April and June 2024.

RoadWise Recognised

The RoadWise Recognised Advisory Committee met in May 2024. Points, which signify road safety actions undertaken, were allocated to 44 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.

RoadWise Council Road Safety Awards

During the WALGA Local Government Awards 2024 gala dinner on 2 August 66 RoadWise Councils were acknowledged for their commitment to work towards better practice road safety delivery for their local communities. Of these, 60 were awarded Ribbons for applying better practice in the planning and delivery of effective road safety intervention and the adoption of a holistic approach to road safety; 13 were awarded 1 Ribbon, 23 were awarded 2, 18 were awarded 3, 5 were awarded 4 and just one was awarded the maximum of 5 Ribbons. Three RoadWise Councils were also acknowledged for having the most recorded road safety activity during the RoadWise Recognised inaugural year.

Asset Management

Road Assets and Expenditure Report Update Project

A consultant, Tango IT, has been selected to commence the work 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. 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. TANGO have been appointed and the scoping phase of the project is expected to be completed in early October 2024.