

Regional Road Group Report

August 2023

Roads

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

The first year of LGTRRIP has successfully delivered three research projects: a Local Government guideline for sustainable road construction practices in WA, a guideline for the selection and implementation of low-cost road safety improvements on rural roads, and a practical guide to the timely sealing for Local Government roads. Three webinars were delivered to introduce these new tools to Local Government officers. A fourth project to develop design and construction guidelines for the use of crushed recycled concrete pavements has commenced. The Operations Team, comprising Local Government practitioners, will select further projects for the 2023/24 year.

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

A scope of work has been prepared for a condition survey of all Roads of Regional Significance in the Southwest region. This included correcting errors in the database to ensure that all intended roads are covered. This request will shortly go to market with the intention of the works commencing in the field in November.

Road Rail Interface Agreements

Rail Interface Agreements are a requirement under the *Rail Safety National Law (WA) Act 2015*. Agreements between metropolitan Local Governments and the Public Transport Authority (PTA) require review and updating. The Association has been working closely with Main Roads WA and with the support of Local Governments to seek a more practical approach to safely conducting road work more than 3m from the rail line, where PTA manages the works, but within the boom gated area. The aim is to develop a model agreement that can be recommended to the impacted Local Governments for consideration.

Funding

Procedures for the State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement

Despite the unanticipated delay in signing the new State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement, the accompanying Procedures which give effect to the funding arrangements are being updated to reflect the new Agreement.

Data Dashboard for Road Assets and Expenditure

A new data dashboard was added to the WALGA website to make information about the Local Government road network and the investment in roads more accessible. This data is regularly used in advocacy work relating to needs and funding for paths and roads.

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 in each region by mid-2024.

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

The Minister for Transport and Director General of the Transport Portfolio have agreed to endorse the business case that has been prepared to seek funding to improve the level of safety provided to users of high speed, sealed Local Government roads in peri-urban and rural areas. This is an important commitment to enable the case to be formally considered by Infrastructure WA and Infrastructure Australia. Main Roads WA has indicated that it is prepared to sponsor the proposal, which would provide a proven and cost-effective administrative arrangement.

Road Safety

Road Safety Ratings for Local Government Roads Project

The LG Stars tool is now almost complete, with minimal work still ongoing on the electronic web application. WALGA will deliver a stakeholder presentation on 6 September to provide more detail on the tool, including information on the tool development process, pilot projects, and evaluation. This meeting will be held both in-person at the WALGA office and online. More detail on the tool and a link to the paper and electronic versions of the tool can be found on the RoadWise website.

Road Safety Council Update

One of the statutory functions of the Road Safety Council is to make recommendations to the Minister responsible for road safety on how Road Trauma Trust Account (RTTA) funds should be spent. At the June 2023 meeting, an overview of the 2023-24 State Budget outcomes were provided to the Road Safety Council. An evaluation plan for RTTA projects was approved and emerging issues associated with electric scooters were considered. The Council also received presentations on the road safety benefits of reducing the maximum default speed (Main Roads WA) and an overview of WA Police Traffic enforcement model and capabilities. A report on the Total Solar Eclipse campaign funded, through the RTTA, was provided.