



# Regional Road Group Report

June 2023



## Roads

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

The Australian Road Research Board (ARRB) have completed the visual condition survey covering strategically significant roads (ROADS 2040) in the Wheatbelt Region. All data has now been delivered and uploaded to the individual RAMM databases for each Local Government. It is proposed to survey the South West Region in the next phase of this project which is scheduled to begin in the fourth quarter of this year. Local Governments in the South West will be updated as the project progresses.

### ***Local Government Transport and Roads Research and Innovation Program***

WALGA and Main Roads have undertaken three major research projects in key areas of focus for Local Governments. The three projects are to develop 1) a Local Government guideline for sustainable road construction practices in WA, 2) a guideline for the selection and implementation of low-cost road safety improvements on rural roads, and 3) a practical guide to the timely sealing for Local Government roads. The projects will support the uptake of best practice in these areas in the Local Government sector and are forecast to be completed by mid-2023 and webinars will be held to introduce the guides.

## Funding

### ***State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement***

Signing the new State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement, endorsed by State Council in May has been delayed as a result of Mark McGowan's resignation in late May. The 2023/24 Local Roads Program and associated funding has been endorsed by the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee (SAC) and is proceeding operationally without delay.

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

Work has continued to harmonise the MCA models used by Regional Road Groups to prioritise project proposals. 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 will commence in June/July/August 2023 with the intent of delivering a revised MCA model in each region for assessment of 2025/26 projects.

### ***Commonwealth Infrastructure Investment Program Review***

WALGA is working with ALGA and the other State Local Government Associations to inform input to the 90 day Review of the Infrastructure Investment Program (IPP) that is being undertaken by the Commonwealth Government. There is no public submission process, but following meetings with Hon Catherine King, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, a commitment to ensure that the review team hears Local Government perspectives was provided. There are both opportunities for better administrative outcomes and long-term funding risks in this review. The Commonwealth provides over 25% of the funds invested in Local Government roads in Western Australia each year and a much higher proportion in regional and remote areas, making this important to almost every Local Government.

Sub-programs within the IIP include the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, Bridges Renewal Program, Black Spot Program and the Roads of Strategic Importance (Secondary Freight Networks). The Review will assess opportunities to improve the efficiency of sub-programs, improving outcomes for local communities and decreasing administrative burden. Individual projects funded by sub-programs will not be reviewed, as the Review is considering the sub-programs as a whole.

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

The Association worked with consultants from ARRB and staff from RAC and Main Roads WA to develop the business case for investment to improve the safety performance on high speed sealed Local Government roads. Single vehicle, run-off road type crashes are the responsible for the majority of crashes resulting in fatalities and serious injuries and their frequency can be reduced by application of proven treatments. Infrastructure Australia has been engaged. It is planned to complete this work by the end of the financial year.

## **Road Safety**

### ***Road Safety Ratings for Local Government Roads Project***

WALGA and the UWA Western Australian Centre for Road Safety Research project team has developed a new tool, prepared draft guidelines to support the development of safety ratings for Local Government roads and completed a pilot project with seven Local Governments. Additionally, work has also commenced on the development of an electronic application for use on desktop computers and tablets. Refinements to the tool and application are underway and the final tool is expected to be completed by mid-2023.