

Local Government Roads

Outside Built-up Areas 23,500 km sealed
 88,200 km unsealed
111,700 km

Work on Roads

	In Built up Areas (kilometres)	Outside Built up Areas (kilometres)
Sealed Road Added to the Network	54.3	146.2
Sealed Road Widened	25.0	258.1
Gravel Road Added to the Network		101.4

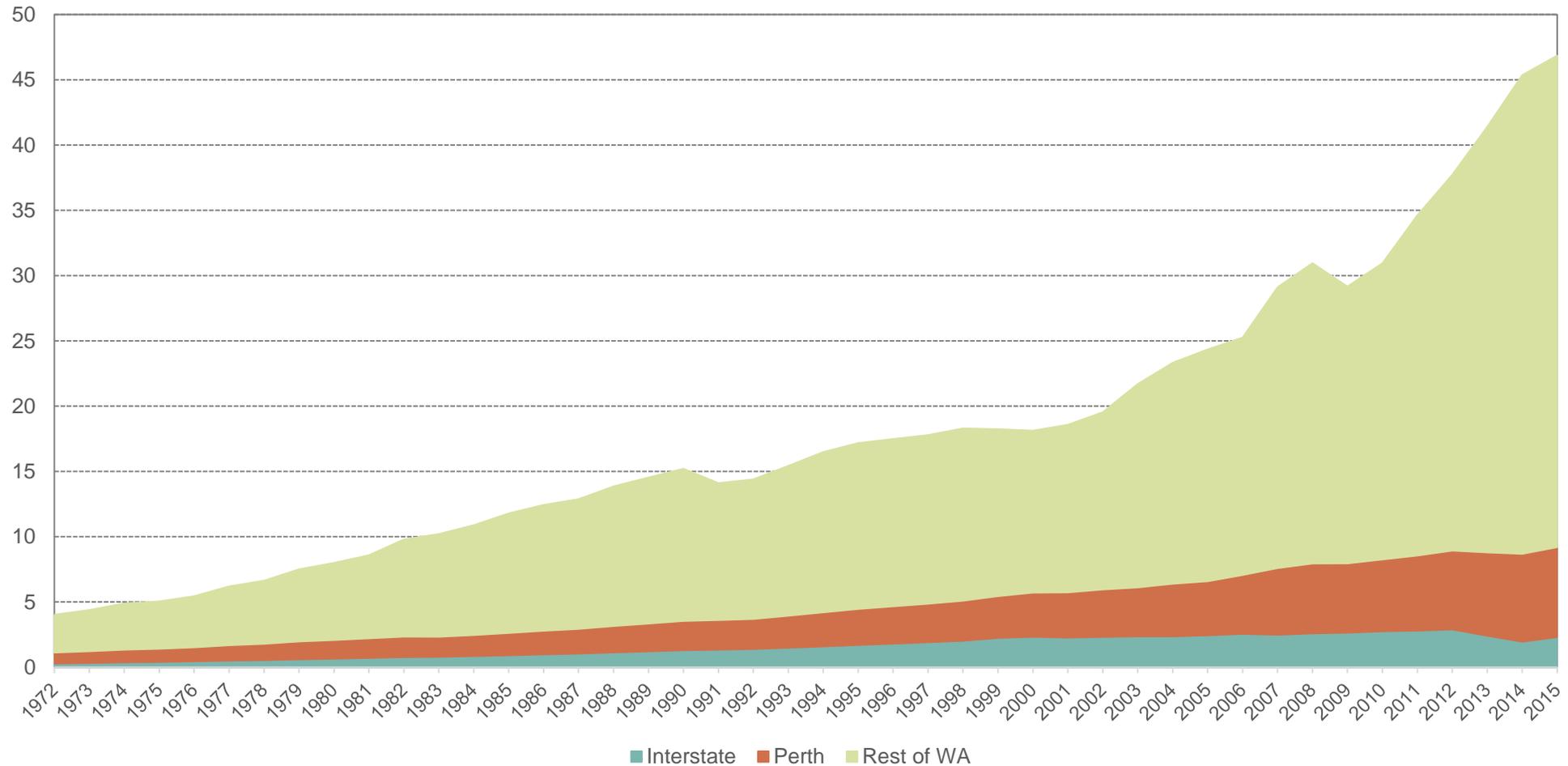


80 applications per year from Local Governments to clear native vegetation for road construction, upgrades and maintenance

Drivers for Road Development Projects



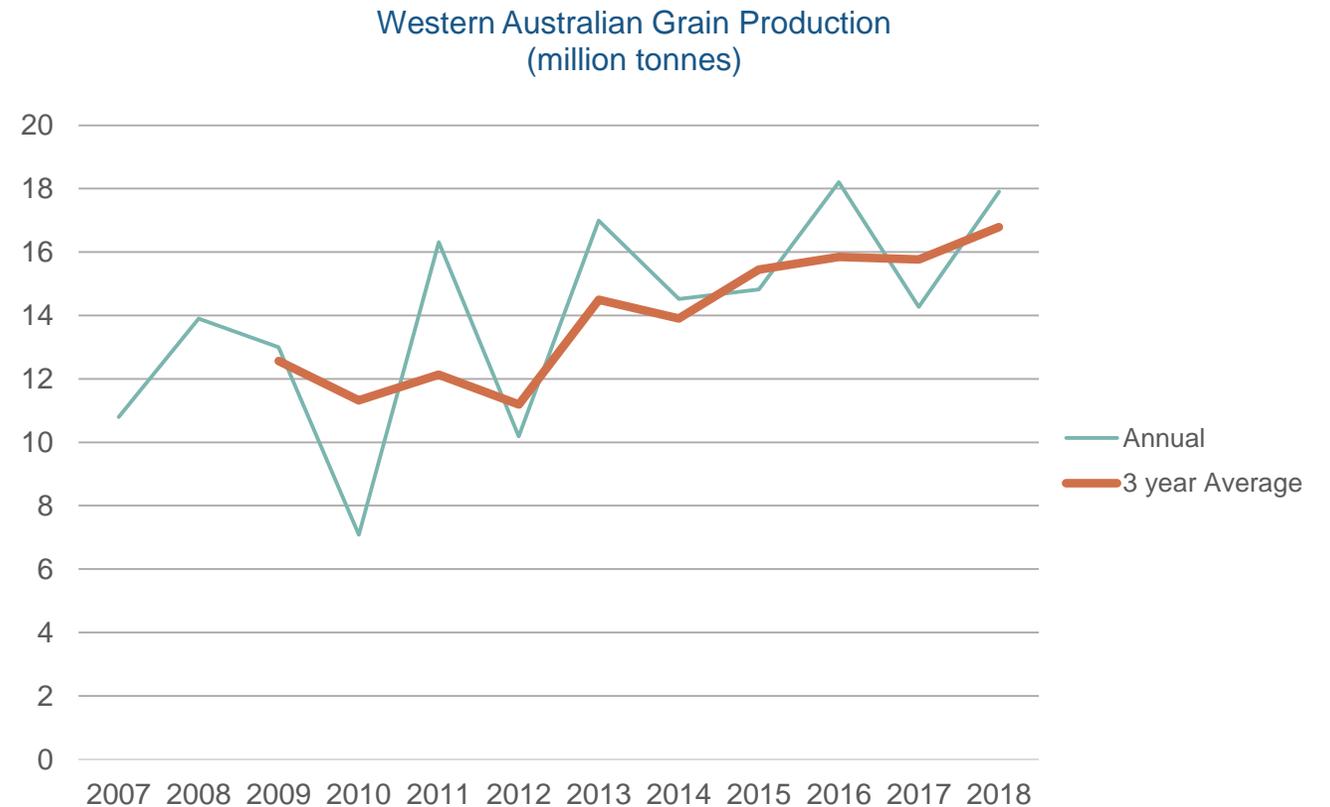
Road Freight
Western Australia (billion tkm)



Industry Environment

In the past decade:

- Grain production increased 33%
- Average load delivered to CBH increased 37% (33.1 tonnes to 45.5 tonnes)
- 500 km of low volume rail lines closed (750,000 tpa grain)



From this



To this

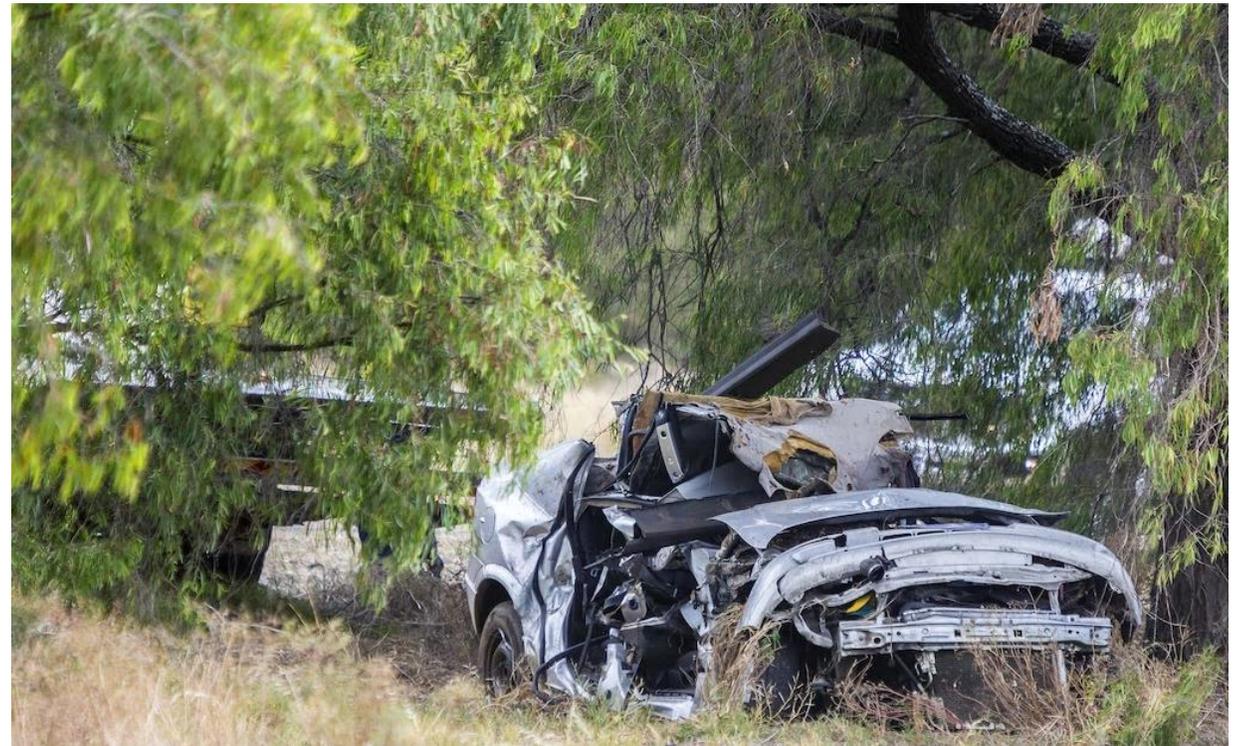


To this



Drivers for Road Development Projects

- 70% of all serious road crashes in regional WA are single vehicle run-off road crashes
- Around 330 people per year are killed or seriously injured in run off road crashes on rural Local Government roads
- Regional road safety performance has not significantly improved in the past decade
- Safe system approach does not rely on drivers never making a mistake



Appeals

- Appeals are made under Section 101A of Part V of the *EP Act (1986)*
 - Local Government clearing applications 2016-2018 = 253
 - Total appeals (2016-2018, all proponents) = 28
 - Appeals against Local Government (2016-2018) = 10
 - Appeals against Local Government – **all upheld in part**
 - Determinations
 - Required DWER to add/amend conditions
 - Avoid and minimise clearing
 - Recording and reporting
 - Identify and inspect habitat trees, install nest boxes
- = Delays of 10-21 months – significant impact on CAPEX and OPEX road expenditure



Advocacy

- WALGA is also working closely with the Clearing Regulation Unit in DWER on the **potential for strategic assessments of roadside clearing on the basis of forward work plans**, which should reduce the regulatory burden for Local Governments.
- **DWER has agreed to convene a Roadside Clearing Regulation Working Group**, comprising WALGA, metropolitan and regional Local Governments and Main Roads WA representatives. This group will provide strategic leadership and guidance on the development of implementation of roadside clearing guidelines and policy, including clearing permits and offsets. The Terms of Reference for the group are currently under development.
- WALGA has also been invited to participate as a member of the **Stakeholder Reference Group for a review of the effectiveness of the WA Offsets Policy** being undertaken by DWER, and has called for a **review of the effectiveness of the Roadside Conservation Committee**.



Advocacy

- Local Governments represent a significant proportion of all clearing permit applications, second only to the State Government. Over the period 2016-18, Local Governments submitted approximately 250 clearing permit applications, 60 per cent of which were for road construction, upgrades or maintenance.
- WALGA is advocating that the State Government's regulation of clearing of native vegetation must be complimented by a more proactive, strategic, comprehensive and sustainably funded approach to the protection of native vegetation (with an emphasis on roadsides in south west land division).
- In addition WALGA has proposed that DWER create a dedicated **Local Government Service Unit** to provide advice and assistance to Local Governments related to their native vegetation clearing permit needs (particularly for road construction and maintenance) and strategic permit processes.

Clearing Permit Fees and Charges

Advocating for an exemption on the basis of:-

- Local Governments undertake clearing for the benefit of the local and broader community
- Increased fee's and charges represents a cost shift
- Increased fees will disproportionately impact on Local Governments with a high road to ratepayer ratio
- There are already significant costs including surveys, offsets and other compliance measures

- Seeking a dedicated DWER service unit for Local Government
- Financial assistance to undertake surveys
- A more comprehensive approach – case by case assessments without an holistic strategy for the protection of native vegetation is causing unnecessary complexion and costs