Local Road Networks

Challenges and opportunities for Local Government

Management of Roadside Vegetation Forum

Shire of Dardanup

15 August 2019

Local Government Roads

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

Work on Roads

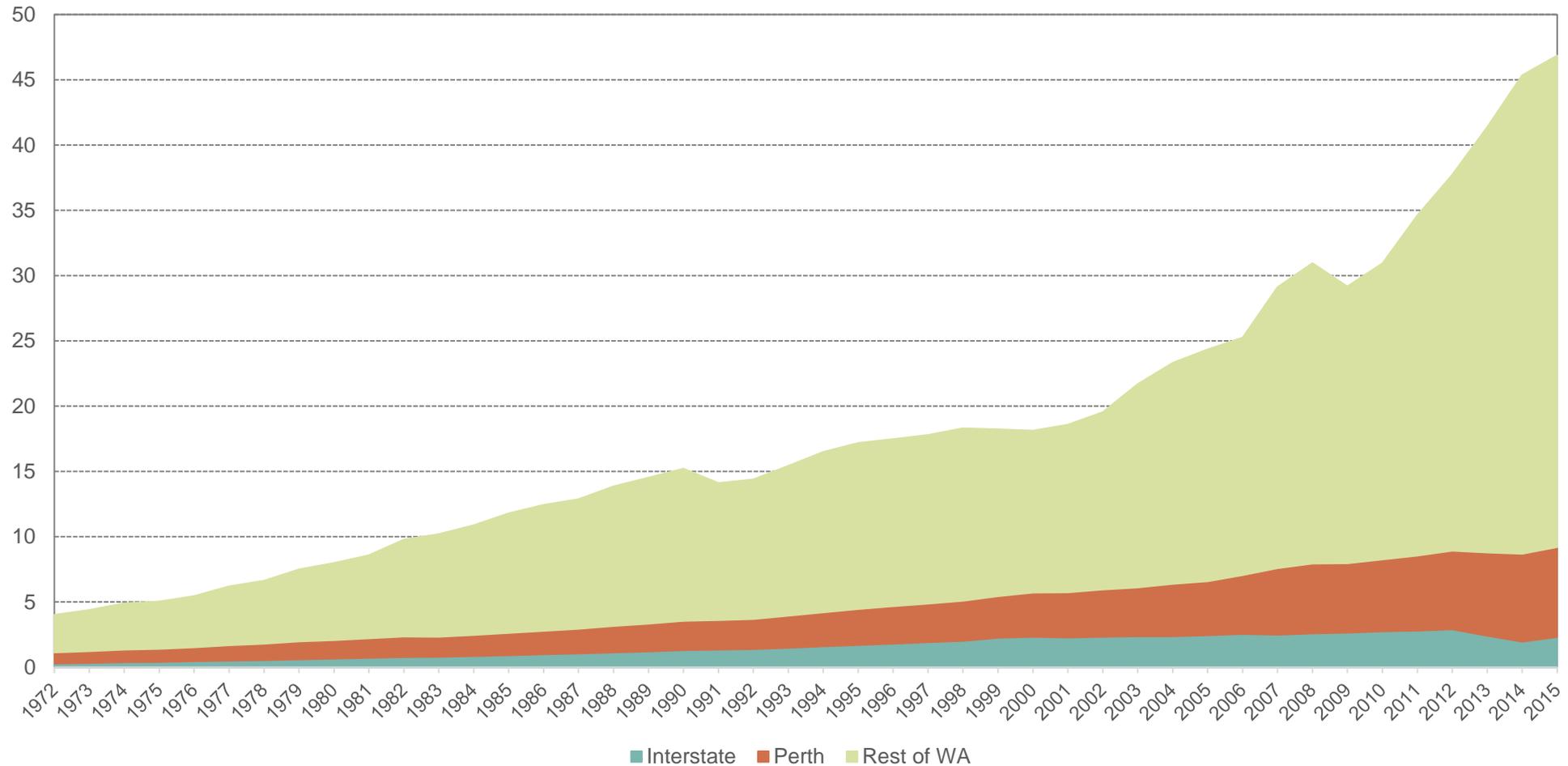|	In Built up Areas (kilometres)	Outside Built up Areas (kilometres)
Sealed Road Added to the Network	54.3	146.2
Sealed Road Widened	25.0	258.1
Gravel Road Added to the Network		101.4

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)

Legend: Interstate, Perth, Rest of WA
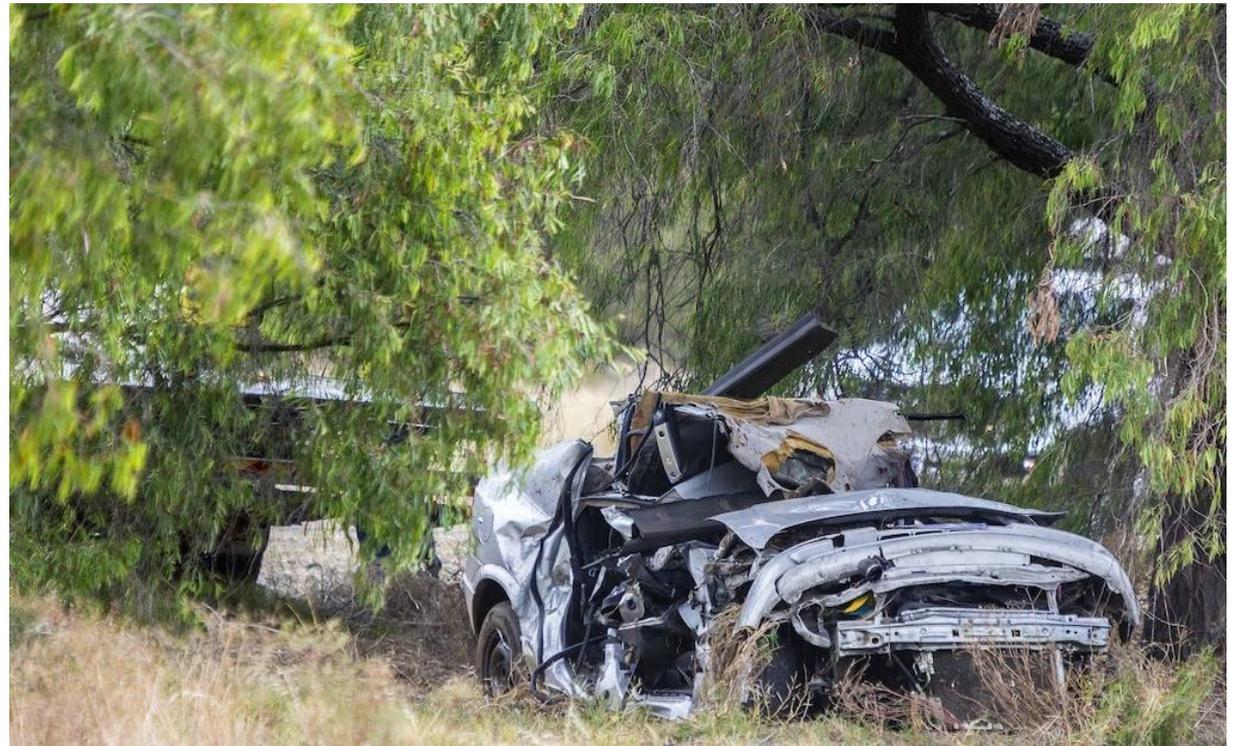
Drivers for Road Development Projects

South West Region

- Population growth 21.9% over the past decade

- Tourist visitor numbers increased 27.8% over the past five years

- Bunbury Port trade (tonnes) increased 9.1% over the past five years

Drivers for Road Development Projects

- 70% of all serious road crashes in regional WA are single vehicle run-off road crashes

- Around 270 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

Killed and Seriously Injured
South West Region by Crash Type 2013 - 2017

WALGA

Type	Killed	Seriously Injured	Total
Off Carr. Hit obj.	41	193	234
Right Angle	6	63	69
Hit Ped.	4	49	53
Non-collision	3	42	45
Head On	3	23	26
Rear End	1	25	26
Right Turn Thru	2	22	24
Off Carr. Non-coll	5	18	23
Other	5	14	19
Hit Object	1	14	15
Hit Animal	0	14	14
Sideswipe	2	8	10

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

- DWER has agreed to convene a **Roadside Clearing Regulation Working Group,** comprising WALGA, metropolitan and regional Local Governments 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 have been agreed and members appointed, including Kay Lehman (City of Busselton).   First meeting is scheduled for 27th August 2019.

- WALGA is 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.

- 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.**

Clearing Permit Fees and Charges

Fees and charges increased from 1 July 2019

- Focus now on ensuring that the increased revenue to the Department results in the promised improvements in service to Local Governments
- Seeking DWER establish a dedicated **Local Government Service Unit**
- Financial assistance to undertake ecological **surveys**
- A more **comprehensive approach** – case by case assessments without an holistic strategy for the protection of native vegetation is causing <u>unnecessary complications and costs</u>
- 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).