

**4.6: WALGA ROADWISE PROGRAM**

**Proponents** : Western Australian Local Government Association  
(WALGA) Roadwise Officer

**Responsible Officer(s)** : Chief Executive Officer (F James)

**IN BRIEF**

- Receive the report and note the activities currently being undertaken by the WALGA RoadWise Program in the Great Southern Region and the involvement of the City of Albany.

**ITEM 4.6: RESPONSIBLE OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**  
**VOTING REQUIREMENT: SIMPLE MAJORITY**

**That Council NOTE the WALGA RoadWise Report.**

**BACKGROUND**

The RoadWise Program is a WALGA Community Road Safety Program and has been in operation since 1994.

The aim of WALGA's road safety programs is, on a state-wide basis, to facilitate the active engagement and involvement of Local Governments and the community in effectively contributing to the adoption and application of the safe system approach and the implementation of specific initiatives of *Towards Zero*, Western Australian Road Safety Strategy 2008-2020.

The Program consists of five main areas:

- The community road safety network, supported by regional road safety officers who work with Local Government, RoadWise Committees, road safety partner agencies and the community;
- The Local Government Safe System Project;
- Local Government policy, advocacy and leadership.
- Administration of the Community Road Safety Grants Program; and
- Training and support for the state wide network of the Type I Child Car Restraint Fitting service.

The RoadWise Program is supported by the Road Safety Council of WA and is funded through the Road Trauma Trust Fund; which is sourced from one third of speed and red light camera infringement fees received in Western Australia.

*Towards Zero* reflects the long term vision of the Road Safety Council of WA of a road transport system where crashes resulting in death or serious injury are virtually eliminated. Realistically it is understood that it is not practical to achieve zero deaths and serious injuries by 2020, but *Towards Zero* does not accept that any death or serious injury is inevitable.

**CEO:**

The *Towards Zero* strategy is underpinned by the internationally recognised and adopted safe system approach to road safety. This approach considers the road transport system holistically, and acknowledges the need for responsibility for reducing risk to be shared by those who use the roads and those who design, maintain and operate all parts of the road transport system. This approach does not ignore risk taking behaviour, but acknowledges human fallibility and the need to make greater allowances when people simply make mistakes. Interventions in the safe system approach are aligned with the key cornerstones of safe roads and roadsides, safe speeds, safe vehicles, and safe road users.

## DISCUSSION

Local Governments have a critical role in creating a safe road transport system for their communities. As road authorities, Local Governments in WA design, maintain and operate a road network in excess of 127,000 km, which represents 72% of the total road network. Between 2005 and 2009, 61% of all serious crashes (those resulting in death or serious injury) occurred on Local Government roads. Research undertaken by Austroads indicates that the serious crash risk on local roads, taking into account vehicle kilometres travelled, is double that of state roads.

Along with their role as a road authority, Local Governments also have the ability to influence road safety outcomes through their role as a planning authority, as an employer and fleet operator, and as leaders and influencers in their communities.

A network of Regional Road Safety Officers is based in all regions around the state, supported by a team of policy and development staff in Perth.

Unlike other regions, there are two RoadWise staff based in the Great Southern region. Kendra Green (Regional Road Safety Officer – Great Southern) is based at the Shire of Plantagenet, and works closely with Local Governments and the community across the region to facilitate engagement in the *Towards Zero* road safety strategy for WA 2008-2020. This includes providing support to five RoadWise Committees across the region, including the Albany RoadWise Committee.

The Albany RoadWise Committee is a long standing and valued member of the state wide community road safety network. The Committee meets monthly and provides an ongoing mechanism for engaging and involving local road safety stakeholders and the community in the dissemination and sharing of information and knowledge, and undertaking of frontline road safety activity. Membership of the Committee includes City of Albany staff, who join members representing WALGA RoadWise, Department of Health, WA Police, Main Roads, Department of Transport, Seniors Advisory Committee, and the community. The Committee works to plan, implement and evaluate community based road safety programs including:

- The annual Easter Fatigue Roadstop in conjunction with Great Southern Police;
- Regular roundabout education programs;
- White Ribbons for Road Safety Campaign; and
- Ongoing promotion of road safety issues in local media.

The Albany RoadWise Committee and City of Albany work closely to identify areas of concern on the local road network, and to recognise and act on opportunities which will be of mutual benefit. The Albany RoadWise Committee also links to the City of Albany Crime Prevention Committee.

\*\*REFER DISCLAIMER\*\*

A WALGA staff member is based at the City of Albany (3 days/week) and the Shire of Plantagenet (2 days/week) and works on the Local Government Safe System Project, which has been developed to support Local Governments as they work towards adopting and implementing the safe system approach to road safety.

The Local Government Safe System Project is working with Local Governments to build capacity, and identify and address the needs of the sector that will enable Local Governments to integrate road safety as part of their core business.

Local Governments around the state, including the City of Albany, have participated in the first phase of this project which has included a series of workshops designed to both increase knowledge and understanding of the safe system approach to road safety, and to identify the barriers and opportunities for Local Governments as they move towards this approach.

The second stage of this project is under development, and will include a range of opportunities for Local Governments to become further involved in enhancing the effectiveness of their road safety strategies and operations.

### **GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION**

Not applicable.

### **PUBLIC CONSULTATION / ENGAGEMENT**

Public consultation and engagement occurs regularly as part of the Albany RoadWise Committee activities. Extensive consultation with the public and stakeholders also occurred as part of the development of the *Towards Zero* road safety strategy for WA 2008-2020.

### **STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

The City of Albany has a duty of care towards road users who use their road network. Local Governments must do what is reasonable to be aware of the deficiencies in their road network, to assess and prioritise them and have a system for remedying them as funds and time become available.

Vehicles are an extension of the workplace, and Local Governments should extend their health & safety management procedures to include employee's vehicles. This includes providing a safe workplace and systems of work, safety information, instruction, training and supervision for Local Government employees.

### **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

This item directly relates to the following elements from the Albany Insight ~ Beyond 2020 Corporate Plan...

*Goal 2. City Centre ... Albany's City Centre will be the most vibrant, safe, accessible and liveable in regional WA.*

*Goal 4. Governance. The City of Albany will be an industry leader in good governance and service delivery.*

*City of Albany Mission Statement: At the City of Albany we are results driven and accountable, and we foster leadership. We provide best value in applying council and community resources, apply Council funds carefully and develop and empower our people to deliver on expectations and promises.*

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Council may be presented with initiatives by WALGA RoadWise Program staff for consideration in the future.

**RISK IDENTIFICATION & MITIGATION**

The risk identification and categorisation relies on the City's Risk Management Framework.

Risk	Risk Analysis	Mitigation
Council does not participate in WALGA RoadWise Program initiatives.	Low	The City of Albany continues to work with the WALGA RoadWise Program towards the best road safety outcomes for the community.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The WALGA RoadWise Program is funded by the Road Trauma Trust Fund and is available as a free service to Local Governments. RoadWise staff are a dedicated resource to assist Local Governments and the community to adopt and implement effective road safety programs and policies.

The Program is part of the service supplied by subscribing to WALGA. However, the City of Albany provides work station space for use by the Roadwise Officer at the North Road Administration building.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no immediate legal implications related to this report.

**ALTERNATE OPTIONS**

Not applicable.

**SUMMARY CONCLUSION**

Local Governments play a critical role in achieving better road safety outcomes for their communities. WALGA's RoadWise Program offers support and resources for Local Governments. Two RoadWise staff are located in the Great Southern and are available to advise and support Local Government on road safety activities.

<b>Consulted References</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Towards Zero</i> WA Road Safety Strategy 2008-2020 (<a href="http://www.ors.wa.gov.au">www.ors.wa.gov.au</a>)</li> <li>• WALGA RoadWise Program (<a href="http://www.roadwise.asn.au">www.roadwise.asn.au</a>)</li> <li>• Austroads Guide to Road Safety Part 4 (<a href="http://www.austroads.com.au">www.austroads.com.au</a>)</li> </ul>
<b>File Number (Name of Ward)</b>	RD.MEE.4 (All Wards)
<b>Previous Reference</b>	Not applicable