

STATE ROAD FUNDS *to* LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT  
2005/2006 to 2009/2010

*Roles and Responsibilities of Regional Road Group Members*



## INTRODUCTION

This brochure is designed to guide and assist Local Government Elected Members to understand their roles and responsibilities as members of a Regional Road Group.

Through Regional Road Groups the State Government provides Local Government with a voice in how the State's contribution to local roads is spent. This organisational structure and regional framework is in recognition of the greater understanding of the local community's road needs that Local Government elected representatives have.

The delegation of responsibility provided to Regional Road Groups should be seen in the context of the statutory powers of the Commissioner of Main Roads to provide local road funding, with the required recommendation to the Hon Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, from a statewide perspective.

With the decline in the road dollar combined with the ever increasing demands on the asset, there is imminent need for Elected Members of Local Government to think beyond local boundaries in order to maximize community benefits and preserve and improve the road system through co-operative arrangements with neighbouring communities.

Elected Members, through processes contained in this brochure, are able to influence road funding decisions and make recommendations that are of direct benefit to local communities and the Western Australian road user.

## THE STATE ROAD FUNDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT 2005/2006 TO 2009/2010

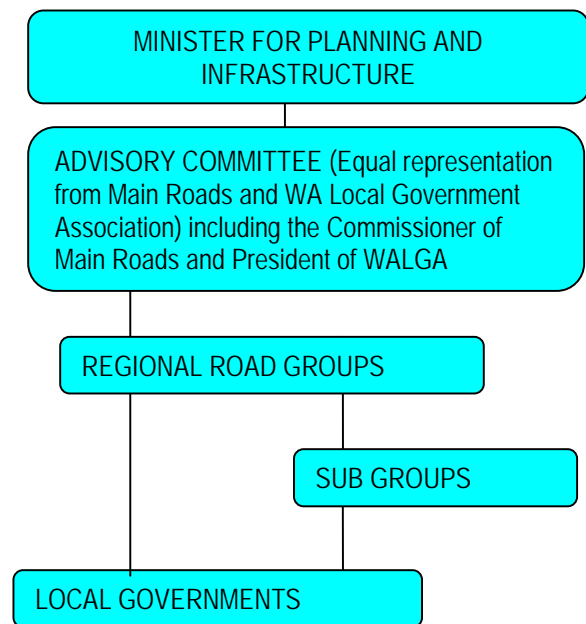
The State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2005/2006 to 2009/2010, signed by senior members of the Western Australian Government and executive representatives from Local Government, reinforces the partnership between State and Local Government and sets out funding levels and processes to meet the needs of the local road network. The Agreement is projected to produce annual allocations based on estimated licence fee revenue for specific funding categories under an annual Local Roads Program. The Agreement is accompanied by a Procedure Manual which primarily outlines the Terms of Reference of the Committee, RRG's and Sub-groups as well as detailing the requirements for administering, distributing and accounting for the funds provided under the Agreement. The Agreement also recognises ongoing issues that need long term solutions in cooperation by State and Local Government.

Under the Agreement there are procedures which detail the organisational structure for the allocation of State

Government road expenditure on Local Government Roads. These procedures and the Agreement are accessible online at <http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au>



## STATE ROAD FUNDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE



## STATE ROAD FUNDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The role of the Advisory Committee is to oversee, monitor and recommend the distribution of State funds for local roads to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.

The Committee comprises of the Commissioner of Main Roads (Chairman), the Chief Executive Officer of WALGA, four elected State Councillors (appointed by WALGA) and four senior officers appointed by the Commissioner of Main Roads.

The Committee reports to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure through the Commissioner of Main Roads.

Responsibilities include:

- Assessing Local Government road funding needs;
- Distribution of the State Road Funds to Local Government;
- The division of State funds between Regions and Program categories;
- Monitoring and reporting on the Local Roads Programs; and
- Development of performance indicators and an improved open and accountable process.

## REGIONAL ROAD GROUP

Within policies and guidelines established by the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee, the Regional Road Group (RRG) is responsible for the assessment of road funding needs, the annual distribution of State funds to Local Government roads, monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of the application of the State funds for Local Government roads in its region.

In so far as Local Government roads are concerned, the Regional Road Group ensures that funds made available by the State are applied to the road network to:

- Maximise capacity and resources through joint purchasing and resource sharing;
- Maximise benefits to the community;
- Preserve, improve and extend the road system; and
- Comply with the obligations of the Commissioner of Main Roads under legislation.

The role of Regional Road Groups is to recommend Local Government road funding priorities to the Advisory Committee and to monitor the implementation of the Local Roads Program in their own Regions.

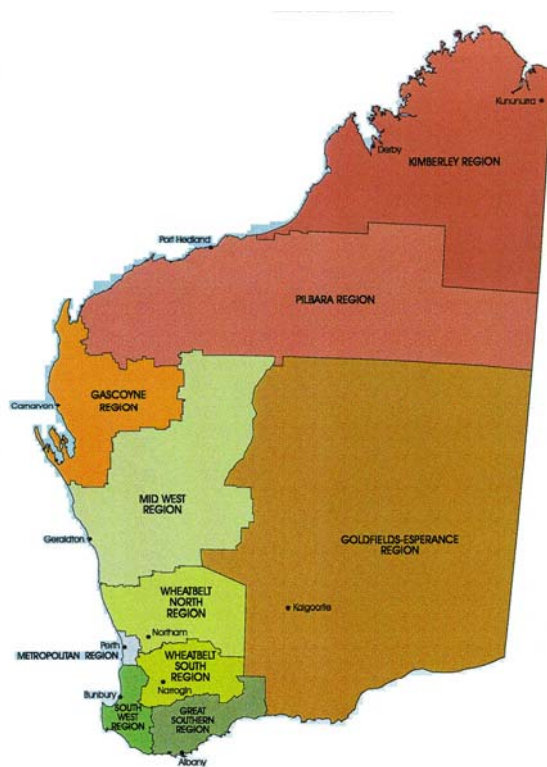
At the Regional level RRGs are responsible for:

- Assessing Local Government road funding needs;
- Prioritising Road Projects and Black Spot Projects;
- Development of a long term plan (5 years) to distribute Road Projects and Black Spot Grants;
- Developing and improving methodology for the prioritization of projects and the distribution of State funds;
- Monitoring and reporting on program effectiveness;
- Implementing Performance Indicators and open and accountable processes;
- Ensuring grants are expended in the year of allocation;

- Monitoring Local Government expenditure on approved local roads projects;
- Recommending improved procedures to the Advisory Committee;
- Raising relevant issues on the Local Roads Program and the overall road needs of the Region with the Advisory Committee; and
- Providing advice to member Local Governments.

The Regional Road Group may delegate certain functions and tasks to Regional Sub Groups, provided that all Regional Sub Groups have the same delegated responsibilities, as outlined in the Procedures.

**THERE ARE TEN REGIONAL ROAD GROUPS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA – as outlined in the map below.**



## FUNDING THROUGH THE STATE ROAD FUNDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT

The share of State Road Funds to Local Government allocated to Local Government roads is 27% of the estimated vehicle licence fees for that year. Funding is distributed under three categories:

## CATEGORY ONE

### DIRECT GRANTS

Direct Grants are provided annually to all Local Governments. The Advisory Committee review the amount available for Direct Grants annually, using the Asset Preservation Model provided by the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission.

Direct Grants are adjusted annually (positive only) by the movement in the Consumer Price Index to 31 December in the year preceding the budget year.



#### **Timetable**

- March* Regional Road Groups notify the Advisory Committee of any likely under- expenditure for the current year.
- June* Advisory Committee to advise Regional Road Groups of annual Direct Grant allocations for the next financial year.
- July* Main Roads' Regional Managers arrange direct payment to Local Governments.
- July* Local Governments expend all Direct Grant distributions and provide Regional Road Group with Certificate of Completion.
- July* Regional Road Groups provide an annual summary of Direct Grant expenditure to the Advisory Committee

### ROAD PROJECT GRANTS

The Advisory Committee allocates funds for road projects to each Regional Road Group. Allocations are based on a five year program.

Road Project Grants may be used for road related works (i.e: street lighting) that the Regional Road Group wishes to undertake, provided it is assessed and prioritised against other road projects in the region and the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee approval is given.

#### **Timetable**

- June* Local Governments advised of approved applications.

*September.* Local Governments apply to Regional Road Group for project funds with supporting justification.

*November* Regional Road Groups provide project recommendations to the Advisory Committee

*December.* Advisory Committee makes its recommendations to the Commissioner of Main Roads

*December* Recoupment payments to Local Government before December 31 of the following year (i.e. 6 months after the end of the financial year).

*December* Local Governments to provide Progress Payment Certificate and Certificate of Completion with the final recoupment claim.

*December* Regional Road Group to advise the Advisory Committee of likely under expenditure of allocated funds.

### SUPPLEMENTARY FUND

The Advisory Committee ensures a minimum balance is in a supplementary fund at the commencement of each financial year. Funds are made available from the Rural Regional Road Group's Road Project Grant pool to ensure that this balance is maintained each year

The Supplementary Fund is available to:

- Provide funds to assist Local Governments repairing roads affected by flood and fire damage; and
- Provide the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee with the flexibility to direct funds to strategic projects.

### STRATEGIC AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Strategic and Technical Support projects are allocated annually by the Advisory Committee and include activities such as Main Roads administrative and technical support to Regional Road Groups, Roads Forums and funding to WALGA for the MINDER and ROMAN programmes.

#### **Timetable**

*October* WA Local Government Association and Main Roads determine proposals for funding.

*November* WA Local Government Association and Main Roads submit proposals for funding with appropriate justification to the Advisory Committee.

November The Advisory Committee gives its recommendations to the Commissioner of Main Roads.

## CATEGORY TWO

Funding for State responsibilities on the Local Government road system is managed through Main Roads Western Australia programs. These include the following programs:

### TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND ROAD SAFETY

Funding for road marking and pavement markers, signing, traffic signals, railway crossings, safety and traffic improvements and the Black Spot program.

The State Black Spot Program on Local Roads, to target improving the safety of roads with a proven crash history or high risk locations with the likelihood of crashes occurring.

### BRIDGE WORKS AND INSPECTIONS

Funding for bridge inspection and maintenance works.



### REMOTE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY ACCESS ROADS

Funding for access roads to remote Aboriginal communities.

### NATIONAL PARKS AND STATE FORESTS

Funding for National Parks, CALM, Rottnest Island and Kings Park roads.

## CATEGORY THREE

### STATE INITIATIVES ON LOCAL ROADS

Projects in this category are generally specific purpose State initiated projects. These projects can comprise both road and bridgeworks on urban and rural roads.

As a result of their size and or complexity, projects are generally undertaken by Main Roads Western Australia on behalf of Local Governments.

### Timetable

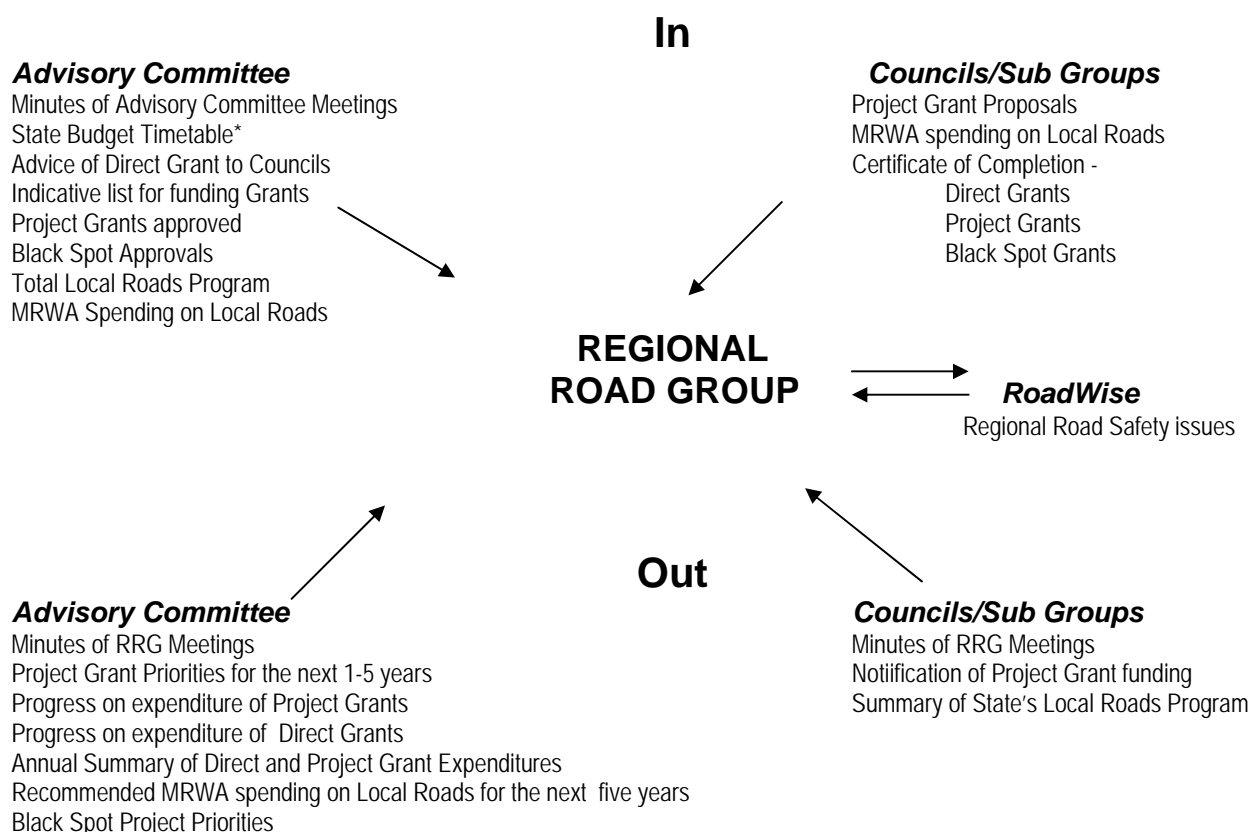
<i>April</i>	State Budget approved by April Parliament
<i>April</i>	Advisory Committee meets
<i>May</i>	Detailed Local Government Roads Program submitted to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructures' approval.
<i>June</i>	Local Governments advised of approved allocations
<i>August</i>	Advisory Committee meeting
<i>August</i>	Regional Road Groups advised of indicative annual grants.
<i>November</i>	Draft State capital works program to State Treasury.
<i>December</i>	Advisory Committee meeting
<i>February</i>	State Budget submitted to Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.



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# COMMUNICATION FLOWS



*\* Note: Timetables must be devised by Advisory Committee and RRG's to dovetail with the State Budgetary process and State Treasury Requirements*



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## MORE INFORMATION

The State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement is available on WALGA's and Main Road's website.

Contact your Local Government for copies of the:-

- ▶ Procedures Manual
- ▶ Road Projects Evaluation Guidelines

### Or Contact

Western Australian Local Government Association  
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 West Perth WA 6872  
 Phone (08) 9213 2031  
 Email : [info@walga.asn.au](mailto:info@walga.asn.au)  
[www.walga.asn.au](http://www.walga.asn.au)

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