



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



About ALGA

- Federation of state and territory local government associations.
- ALGA Board has Presidents and Vice Presidents of each state and territory association.
- Small secretariat based in Canberra.
- We represent local government's interests nationally.
- Primary role – maintain/strengthen inter-government relationships, chiefly with the Australian Government.
- State associations address interests of councils in their respective state/territory.

ALGA's Key Priority Areas

- Funding for local government, including Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants.
- Asset management and maintenance of local roads funding.
- Improving freight productivity.
- Asset management and maintaining community assets.
- Work on climate change, particularly on adaptation.
- Dealing with Cost Shifting onto local governments.

Strategic Role of Local Government in Road Safety

- Local government has important roles to play in road safety.
- In most jurisdictions, local road safety programs are delivered through local government.
- Local government has responsibilities in areas where there are synergy possibilities.
- All councils have land use planning, regulation and the provision of roads as core functions.

Characteristics of the Local Road Network

- Local government manages more than 75% by length of the Australian road network (Austroads).
- The bulk of the length of Australia's road network is rural local roads.
- Local government roads typically cater for lower traffic volumes.
- They are also a much more diverse range of road environments.
- They range from high speed rural roads to local streets with residential and shopping functions and schools fronting them.
- These roads also tend to have a greater mix of road users present, especially vulnerable pedestrians and cyclists.

Road Crash Experience

- The cost of road crashes in Australia is put at \$27bn (DIRD).
- Austroads (2010a) found 52% of all casualty crashes and 40% of all fatal crashes occur on council-managed roads.
- The risk of drivers being involved in a casualty crash can be between 1.5 and 2 times higher than on state road networks.
- Austroads findings highlighted several key contributing factors:
 - A lower standard of design – poor junction, road alignment, unsealed shoulders, narrow roads, lack of delineation, etc; &
 - Behavioural issues – excessive speeds, distraction, inattention, road user impairment and drive expectations.
- Reducing fatal and serious injuries (FSI) is a priority – but priority should be given to crash types that make the highest fraction of FSI.

Constraints on Local Government

- A number of constraints on local government contribute to a poorer road safety performance.
- Treatment options are often restricted by financial factors and low benefit-cost outcomes.
- This results in lack of funding support internally and from state and federal agencies.
- It's often a result of crash locations being more dispersed across a route, clustering of crashes are less likely to occur, or involve much lower numbers than state networks.

Land Transport Technology changes

- Emerging technology have potential to reduce the number and severity of crashes.
- Driver advisory and assistance systems
 - Blind spot warnings, speed limit advisories, lane departure warnings
- Automated systems
 - Adaptive cruise control, lane keep assist, auton. emergency braking
- Are they in vehicle technologies which involve Vehicle to Vehicle communications, Vehicle to Infrastructure of Vehicle to Device.

Preparing for our Automated & Driverless Future

- Rapid development of automated vehicle technology has created an imperative for coordinated policy and regulatory response by all Australian governments.
- Setting national ground rules for everyone adhere to – providers and users of automated road plus transport infrastructure services – is critical to ensure a safe and efficient road system for Australia.
- Local government is one of a number of major stakeholders affected by these rapid developments.
- Improving the safety of car occupants and pedestrians is also a potential big win for users, consumers and the economy.
- This is especially so if better autonomous driving systems can make a dint in our one thousand plus annual fatalities.

The Challenges for Local Government

- Quality of infrastructure and whether it facilitates new technology vehicles.
- The issues for regional councils – 2/3 of the 540 councils are regional, rural or remote – not just road infrastructure but also communications.
- The question of investment in asset maintenance and infrastructure improvements and the future of funding sources in the era of technological advancement – declining fuel excise revenue, the fully automated vehicle.



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