

Road Safety Governing Principles for Local Governments

Fact Sheet

The *Road Safety Governing Principles for Local Governments* are a high-level framework that can be used to guide and assist Local Governments to accomplish good governance in road safety.

The principles are a set of systematically developed and validated statements specific to Local Government. They can be used as a governance framework to assist in the adoption of the safe system approach across all levels of the organisation to achieve a robust system for managing road safety effectively.

Why Were the Principles Developed?

Across Australia and WA, the need for a holistic view of road safety was acknowledged and led to a shift in thinking in the development of long term strategies.

The *Driving Change, Road Safety Strategy for WA 2020-2030* and the *National Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030* are based on the internationally recognised and evidence-based safe system approach to road safety. This approach was pioneered internationally in Sweden and the Netherlands which are among the leading countries in the world in terms of road safety performance.

When surveyed, Local Governments in WA indicated a need for guidance with regards to applying the safe system approach at a local level.

In an effort to assist the Local Government sector in understanding and adopting the safe system approach, and to improve how they manage road safety internally, the principles were developed to provide a framework for consideration while

formulating road safety strategies, plans and policies.

How Were the Principles Developed?

The *Road Safety Governing Principles for Local Governments* have been adapted from the *Safe System Guiding Principles* that were developed by WALGA in 2009. These original principles were developed, and tailored for Local Governments, using a consensus and validation process which involved a panel of specialists from the Local Government sector, together with interstate and international road safety professionals, and other relevant experts.

How can the Principles Support Local Government Action?

Road safety governance refers to a suite of processes, systems, roles and responsibilities by which an organisation is directed, controlled and held to account with regards to road safety. Each of the governing principles provide guidance, direction and context for Local Governments to formulate policies and practices that are proactive and evidence based to ultimately improve road safety outcomes consistent with international best practice.

A diagram outlining the principles is included on page two of this fact sheet.

How can I Find out More Information?

More information can be found on the RoadWise website; www.roadwise.asn.au or by contacting your Regional Road Safety Advisor.

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As seen in the diagram above, central to the *Road Safety Governing Principles for Local Governments* is an overarching principle (centre circle) supported by a further six principles that provide guidance for Local Governments to do the following:

- commit to a vision for local road safety (overarching),
- demonstrate leadership,
- integrate the safe system approach into corporate, strategic and operational plans,
- invest in building capacity and capability for effective implementation,
- demonstrate accountability by monitoring and reporting road safety performance,
- ensure organisational policy and practice is proactive and evidence based, and
- acknowledge responsibility as the network owner and partner with others.