

Declaration for Road Safety

OVERVIEW



Local Governments are key partners in the shared responsibility for road safety in Western Australia. As designers and managers of an extensive road network, and as leaders and influencers in local communities, Local Governments are well placed to have a positive impact on road safety outcomes.

Towards Zero is based on the safe system approach to road safety - an internationally recognised and evidence based approach which provides a holistic framework for long term and sustainable improvements in road safety.

The long-term vision of *Towards Zero* is of a road transport system where crashes resulting in death or serious injury are virtually eliminated. This approach involves combining ambitious targets and evidence based interventions to achieve the greatest gains for road safety.

Surveys conducted by WALGA's RoadWise Program demonstrated that Local Governments have strong recognition that road safety is an issue of concern within their communities and their organisations.

Many Local Governments are taking proactive steps to address road safety issues in their communities, and acknowledge, encourage and empower community members, local business and stakeholders who work together for the improvements of road safety in Western Australia.

What has been done?

In order to assist in achieving this ambitious vision for road safety, and create a strong advocacy position for Local Governments, the Association has developed on behalf of the sector the 'Declaration for Road Safety'. There is a strong evidence base from international leaders in road safety, such as Sweden and their *Vision Zero*, which shows political will and support from all spheres of government provide greater reductions in road trauma.

The Declaration for Road Safety provides an opportunity for Local Government to pledge their commitment to the Western Australian vision for road safety and be consistent with the intent of *Towards Zero*, the road safety strategy 2008-2020, which was conditionally endorsed by WALGA's State Council in April 2008.

A Declaration for Road Safety states the high level political commitment of a Local Government acknowledging the impacts of road fatalities and serious injuries in their local communities. It does not, however, specifically articulate actions that Local Governments will take in order to respond to road safety issues at a local level.

The Declaration has been developed based on:

- *Towards Zero*, road safety strategy to reduce road trauma in Western Australia 2008 - 2020—www.ors.wa.gov.au/Towards-Zero
- The Safe System Guiding Principles for Local Government—refer to 'For further information' on back
- Moscow Declaration, from the First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety—www.who.int/roadsafety/ministerial_conference/declaration_en.pdf

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How does the Declaration work?

The Declaration can be amended to suit individual Local Governments needs for example to strengthen the intent, or include locally relevant statements. The Association encourages all Local Governments to demonstrate a commitment to working towards zero road fatalities and serious injuries through this Declaration.

This Declaration will stand as a voluntary opportunity for Local Governments to demonstrate their political commitment to work towards zero road fatalities and serious injuries. It does not commit Local Governments to actions beyond current resources, standards or means, but provides a statement of intent and acknowledges the moral and ethical role Local Governments have in their communities. Essentially, the Declaration provides an opportunity for local leaders to pledge to future generations that every road death is one too many.

WALGA encourages all Local Governments to become signatories to the Declaration for Road Safety. The Declaration is designed to strengthen Local Governments advocacy position by articulating a shared political commitment across the sector, as well as providing an opportunity for individual Local Governments to declare their commitment to a future where road deaths and serious injuries are no longer accepted as a fact of life.

For further information

Declaration for Road Safety resources:

- Declaration for Road Safety SAMPLE
- Declaration for Road Safety HOW TO
- Declaration for Road Safety CASE STUDIES
- Safe System Guiding Principles for Local Government

To obtain copies of the above mentioned resources and for more information on the Declaration for Road Safety, Local Government personnel and RoadWise Committee members can register to access the Member's Section of the Roadwise website. Please email roadwise@walga.asn.au or contact your closest Road Safety Advisor www.roadwise.asn.au/contact-roadwise.aspx

TOWARDS ZERO



getting there together

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