



Black Spot Program Kit

March 2019

Working together to prevent road trauma



RoadWise



WALGA

www.roadwise.asn.au

National and State Black Spot Program Kit

This kit aims to provide information to RoadWise Road Safety Advisors on the National and State Black Spot Program and how they can provide support to WA Local Governments in the National and State Black Spot nomination process.

Background

An internal process in March 2017 identified the need to review the current level of knowledge and application of the *State Black Spot Program Development and Management Guidelines* and the skills required of RoadWise officers to assist Local Governments in the Black Spot nomination process.

In September 2017 WALGA's RoadWise surveyed all members of Regional Road Groups (RRG) about the Black Spot Program to obtain feedback on RoadWise's role in the Black Spot Program and the impact of recent changes to road safety auditor accreditation. Results showed 75 per cent of respondents expressed that assistance from WALGA's RoadWise Road Safety Advisors in the following areas: the identification of Black Spot locations, the evaluation of Black Spot submissions, being a road safety audit team member and helping with the promotion of the Black Spot Program would be either "somewhat useful" or "very useful" for their Local Government.

In response to the survey findings, RoadWise has developed six recommendations to provide assistance going forward to Local Governments in Black Spot funding nominations and road safety audits. See Appendix A.

The *State Black Spot Program Development and Management Guidelines* describe the requirements for the development and management of projects for inclusion in the State Black Spot Program. This document was updated in October 2018 to reflect the survey findings and corresponding recommendations and outlines the assistance WALGA's RoadWise Program can provide to RRG's and Local Governments when submitting a Black Spot nomination¹.

This kit should be used in combination with the State Black Spot Development and Management Guidelines, which can be found at:

https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/OurRoads/RoadSafety/BlackSpotProgram/Pages/approved_state.aspx#guidelines

State Black Spot Program Outline

- The State Black Spot Program is aimed at further improving road safety across Western Australia, thereby reducing the significant trauma and suffering of crash victims and their loved ones.
- The Program is complimentary to the existing Australian Government Black Spot Program. However, it is intended that the State Program criteria will enable application of funds to a wider range of projects at hazardous locations.
- All road classifications are eligible for funding, including State roads, local roads and the National Land Transport Network roads.

¹ Main Roads Western Australia 2018, *State Black Spot Development and Management Guidelines*, https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/OurRoads/RoadSafety/BlackSpotProgram/Pages/approved_state.aspx. 22 November 2018.

- The program targets existing black spots and black lengths (lengths of road three or more kilometres long) and also potential hazardous locations. Black spots can be at an intersection, mid-block or short sections of road.
- Black spots and black lengths will be selected on the basis of recorded history, while potentially hazardous locations will be selected on the basis of a formal Road Safety Inspection (formerly known as a “Road Safety Audit”)².

The program is based on the following allocation of funds:

- Fifty per cent will be spent on roads in the Perth metropolitan region.
- Fifty per cent will be spent on rural roads including country towns and cities.
- Fifty per cent of the total program funding will be dedicated to local roads. Main Roads WA and Local Government will contribute funds to this component of the program on a 2:1 (Main Roads WA : Local Government) basis.
- Up to 50 per cent of the total program funding will be provided for projects at hazardous locations identified by a Road Safety Inspection. However, in the case of local roads this proportion may be increased to 100 per cent to suit the needs as recommended by the Regional Road Groups. Similarly non metropolitan State roads may have up to 100 percent of funding provided for projects at hazardous locations identified by a Road Safety Inspection if recommended by the Main Roads Executive Director Finance and Commercial Services³.

Information about the next round of the Black Spot Programs can be found by visiting the following web page:

<https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/OurRoads/RoadSafety/BlackSpotProgram/Pages/BlackSpotProgramHome.aspx>.

How Can Road Safety Advisors Provide Assistance to Local Government?

RoadWise Road Safety Advisors can provide assistance to Local Governments who are nominating for Black Spot funding in the following areas:

1. Assist in identifying possible Black Spot locations
2. Promote the Black Spot Program
3. Road Safety Audits and Inspections.

Assist in identifying possible Black Spot locations

Road Safety Advisors can assist Local Governments by providing information on where to access road safety data and information on crash trends in their area. The following are sources of road safety information in WA:

- **Main Roads Western Australia - Crash Analysis Reporting System (CARS)** - is software used in WA for the analysis of reported road crashes. It is available to State and Local Government road asset managers, and also to consultants engaged to complete work on

² Main Roads Western Australia. 2018, *State Black Spot Development and Management Guidelines*, https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/OurRoads/RoadSafety/BlackSpotProgram/Pages/approved_state.aspx. 22 November 2018.

³ Main Roads Western Australia. 2018, *State Black Spot Development and Management Guidelines*, https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/OurRoads/RoadSafety/BlackSpotProgram/Pages/approved_state.aspx. 22 November 2018.

behalf of these agencies. To gain access to CARS*, a registration process will need to be completed via the following link:

<https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/OurRoads/RoadSafety/CrashIncidentManagement/Pages/crashtool.aspx>.

***Note:** CARS should be used as a planning tool by Road Safety Advisors to assist in researching crash trends in their region for the purpose of developing a road safety plan – not to become involved in the actual Black Spot nomination.

- **Road Safety Council** - information on the Road Safety Council's State priorities and *Towards Zero WA's state road safety strategy 2008-2020* can be found on the Road Safety Commission website at: www.rsc.wa.gov.au.
- **RoadWise Committees** – road safety issues and concerns identified through the Roadwise Committee can be brought to the attention of the Local Government concerned and encouraged to nominate for Black Spot Program funding.
- **Other sources of regional and local crash trends** –Table 1 below lists a number of other sources from which to gather information on regional and local crash data.

Sources of local or regional road safety information		
Source	Website	What
The Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE)	<u>Annual road trauma publications:</u> http://www.bitre.gov.au/publications/ongoing/road_deaths_australia_annual_summaries.aspx	Road trauma Australia— annual summaries.
	<u>Local Government area's with zero road deaths in last 10 years:</u> https://bitre.gov.au/dashboards/#vision	Local Government areas with zero road deaths.
The Road Safety Commission	<u>Crash Statistics</u> https://www.rsc.wa.gov.au/Statistics/RegionalStatistics	Regional statistics
	<u>Research</u> https://www.rsc.wa.gov.au/Research	Latest research
Main Roads WA	<u>Crash Analysis Reporting System (CARS)</u> (Registration and login needed) https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/OurRoads/RoadSafety/CrashIncidentManagement/Pages/crashtool.aspx	Regional and local statistics
	<u>Regional statistics:</u> https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/UsingRoads/regions/Pages/home.aspx	Regional and local traffic counts
	<u>Traffic counts:</u> https://trafficmap.mainroads.wa.gov.au/map	
Australian Bureau of Statistics	http://www.abs.gov.au/	Regional and local statistics

Sources of local or regional road safety information		
Source	Website	What
Local Government websites	http://www. [insert local government].wa.gov.au	Local strategic/action plans Local statistics Local news/issues
Regional Development Commissions	http://www.drd.wa.gov.au/about/PORTFOLIO/Independent-Partners/Regional-Development-Commissions/Pages/default.aspx	Regional strategic plans Regional and local statistics
WA Country Health Service	http://wacountry.health.wa.gov.au/index.php?id=961	Regional and local health statistics
Austroroads	https://austroroads.com.au/	Road Standards

Table 1: Sources of local or regional road safety information

Promote the Black Spot Program

Road Safety Advisors can promote the State and National Black Spot Programs to Local Government and the public by:

- a) **Informing Local Governments about the Black Spot Criteria and the Black Spot Development and Management Guidelines**– these can be found on the Main Roads WA website at:

https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/OurRoads/RoadSafety/BlackSpotProgram/Pages/approved_state.aspx#guidelines.
- b) **Provide presentations and information sessions on the Black Spot Program to your Local Government**
 - Organise with your Local Governments to deliver a presentation or information session on the Black Spot Program.
 - Promote where Local Governments can access information, tools and other resources (e.g. CARS).
 - Promote Main Roads WA Black Spot workshops being run in your local area to your local and regional networks.
 - Find out when the State and National Black Spot rounds open and close and promote this to your RoadWise Committee’s and Local Government networks. There may be different opening and closing dates. National and State Black Spot Program timetables can be found at:

<https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/OurRoads/RoadSafety/BlackSpotProgram/Pages/BlackSpotProgramHome.aspx>.
- c) **Promote Local Government Black Spot projects and achievements to the local community**
 - Keep up to date on the local and regional projects funded and completed through the Black Spot Program.
 - Offer and provide assistance to your Local Governments to promote the road safety benefits of their Black Spot project to the community.

- Promote Black Spot projects via: local newspapers, local newsletters, RoadWise newsletter, local radio, social media, Council websites, poster presentation in Council foyer/front desk/library, nominating projects for road safety awards, submitting abstracts for road safety conferences and regional television news. A media release template is provided with this kit - please see Appendix B.

d) Facilitate the sharing of information between Local Governments

If you know of other Black Spot projects/nominations that are happening in your region, it's a good idea to keep your Local Governments informed - especially if it's a neighbouring Local Government. This can be done via RoadWise Committees or by meeting with the relevant staff in each Local Government. Knowing what other projects are happening may allow for sharing of resources, contractors, road equipment hire etc.

Road Safety Audits and Inspections

- a) Offer your services as a “specialist advisor” for road safety audits in your area - All Road Safety Advisors are given the opportunity to undertake on-line road safety audit training. Road Safety Advisors who have completed the road safety audit training can offer their services as a “specialist advisor” in any audit teams their Local Governments may be putting together.**

Definition - specialist advisor

“Specialist advisors, such as, police advisors or technical experts can assist the audit team by providing independent specialist advice to the audit team on particular aspects of a project. There is no requirement for a specialist advisor to be an accredited road safety auditor. Specialist advisors shall be listed as an “advisor” in the audit report and shall not be listed as a team member”⁴.

- b) Providing information about accredited auditors – RoadWise Road Safety Advisors can advise Local Governments about the availability of accredited auditors if they know if a road safety audit team is visiting the region (this will allow auditing costs to be kept down).**
- c) Facilitating the sharing of resources between Local Governments – Road Safety Advisors are in the unique position of knowing what is happening in other Local Governments in their region. It may be beneficial for Local Governments to know what other Local Governments nearby are planning so that they may share resources (e.g. hiring of plant equipment, contractors, transporting supplies, buying road materials in bulk, road safety audit teams etc.).**

⁴ Main Roads Western Australia. 2015, Policy and guidelines for road safety audit, <https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/OurRoads/RoadSafety/Audits/Pages/Audits.aspx>, 22 November 2018.

APPENDIX A

RRG and Black Spot Survey 2018: Recommendations

The following recommendations were developed on the basis of the survey results.

1. That WALGA develop a model policy and guidelines for road safety audits on Local Government roads.
2. That WALGA report the findings of the survey and discuss the future role of the RoadWise team in relation to the *State Black Spot Development and Management Guidelines* with Main Roads Western Australia.
3. That WALGA explore ways to increase Local Government knowledge of the new requirements for road safety auditor accreditation by:
 - Reporting and advocating the results of the survey to the Road Safety Panel (responsible body).
 - Offer to assist the Road Safety Panel to promote and increase awareness of the new requirements through existing WALGA communication channels as part of our role in supporting member Local Governments.
4. That WALGA investigate how it can support Local Governments to conduct road safety audits by:
 - Providing information about accredited auditors.
 - Making Road Safety Advisors available as specialist advisors on road safety inspections and road safety audits.
 - Facilitating the sharing of resources between Local Governments.
5. That WALGA's RoadWise Program continue to offer assistance to RRG's and Local Governments in the following areas:
 - a) **Identification of Black Spot locations** - provide information on Road Safety Council State priorities, regional crash trends and other identified local road safety issues.
 - b) **Evaluation of Black Spot submissions** - conduct a review to clarify the current process and intent of Black Spot evaluation in consideration of the role of the Road Safety Advisors in the *State Black Spot Program Development and Management Guidelines*.
 - c) **Road safety audit team member** - RoadWise Road Safety Advisors will undertake the on-line road safety audit training and be available to Local Governments as a specialist advisor in road safety inspections and audits.
 - d) **Promotion of the Black Spot Program** by:
 - Promoting the Black Spot Criteria and Procedures to Local Governments.
 - Promoting where to access information, tools and other resources (e.g. CARS).
 - Promoting Local Government Black Spot Projects to the community.
 - Facilitating the sharing of information between Local Governments.
6. That WALGA's RoadWise undertake a review to further clarify the type of assistance, advice and support Road Safety Advisors are able to provide to RRG's and Local Governments into the future.

APPENDIX B

Media release template – Black Spot Funding

Black Spot Funding to Improve Road Safety in the City/Town/Shire of *<insert name>*

<date>

The City/Town/Shire of *<insert name>* has received *<National/State>* Government Black Spot Funding to improve road safety at *<insert name of road/intersection>*.

The Black Spot was identified for application for the program by *<insert who>* and the City/Town/Shire of *<insert name>*.

The City/Town/Shire of *<insert name>* identified there had been *<number of crashes>* crashes with *<number of fatalities and serious injuries>* fatalities and/or serious injuries at/on *<insert name of road/intersection>* in the past *<insert number of years>* years.

The City/Town/Shire of *<insert name>* has been funded *<insert amount>* through the program to improve the safety of *<insert name of road/intersection>*.

Improvements will include *<insert details of the improvements>*

The Black Spot Program provides funding to Local Governments to directly target improvements to the safety of roads with a proven crash history or high-risk locations.

Obtaining funding through the Black Spot Program is just one way the *<City/Town/Shire/organisation>* is working to reduce death and serious injury on our roads. Other road safety projects and initiatives include *<list your organisation's road safety campaigns and initiatives>*

Find out more about road safety in your local community by visiting *<insert organisation website details>*.

ENDS

Media Enquiries:

If you would like an interview with *<insert name>*, please contact:

<insert name and position>

<insert email>

08 9XXX XXXX

Photo opportunities:

<Insert image of the proposed or completed upgrade>

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