

## Road Safety Management at Main Roads Western Australia

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### Abstract

Main Roads Western Australia is committed “To provide world class outcomes for the customer through a safe, reliable and sustainable road-based transport system”. A cornerstone of this commitment is the aim to provide improved safety outcomes for all users of the (road) transport network as defined within the State Government’s *Towards Zero* Road Safety Strategy 2008-2020 (Office of Road Safety, 2009). To achieve this, Main Roads has implemented a Road Safety Management (ROSMA) system based on Safe System principles. This paper describes ROSMA, one of the first of its kind, and its impact on road safety in Western Australia.

### Background

In 2009 the Western Australian Government endorsed the *Towards Zero*, Road Safety Strategy 2008-2020 (Office of Road Safety, 2009). *Towards Zero*’s main premise is death and serious injury should not be tolerated as inevitable consequences for using the road transport system. Like the road safety strategies of other high performing jurisdictions, *Towards Zero* is based on Safe System principles and sets ambitious targets for reducing death and serious injury. The Safe System acknowledges that even the most compliant road users make mistakes so the road system needs to be forgiving and cater for these errors. Furthermore, the Safe System views the road transport system holistically by seeking to manage the interaction between the cornerstones of Safe Roads and Roadsides, Safe Speeds, Safe Users and Safe Vehicles.

### Strategy

Main Roads has a significant role with regard to road safety within Western Australia. As the state road authority, Main Roads is charged with managing and providing safe road infrastructure and operations to all road users. Therefore the strategy for reducing death and serious injury is focused on areas that Main Roads can directly influence, which include:

- Ensuring that projects implemented on the state road network by Main Roads and others are assessed, selected, developed and delivered with the aim of reducing death and serious injury.
- Ensuring that set speed limits contribute to Safe Speeds on both state and local government roads.
- Implementing policies for road design, for state and local government roads, in line with the Safe Roads and Roadsides cornerstone.
- Developing and delivering effective road safety treatment programs.
- Operating and implementing policies that manage the risk of death or serious injury when using our roads or while working on the road directly or indirectly for Main Roads.

### Actions

In June 2016 Main Roads launched ROSMA; a Road Safety Management System. ROSMA has been developed in line with world best practice. Main Roads is one of the first road authorities to implement a road safety management system aligned with the international standard for Road Traffic Safety Management System (ISO39001:2012). The basic premise of ROSMA is a) understand the death and serious injury crash risk (or potential risk), b) determine targets (in line with National, State and Organisational road safety targets) and c) deliver solutions that mitigate the risk and help us reach our road safety targets. Implementation of ROSMA has been supported by

training provided to Main Roads employees in all regional offices and key delivery branches within head office. When fully embedded, ROSMA will be 'business as usual' for all Main Roads activities, including but not limited to, infrastructure, operational and maintenance projects, and development of corporate practices and policies.

### **Conclusions**

The implementation and adoption of ROSMA ensures the Safe System approach is embedded in all activities undertaken by Main Roads employees. ROSMA has had the additional benefit of promoting increased collaboration between areas within Main Roads and with external stakeholders. This further encourages the ultimate focus; to reduce the number of deaths and serious injury crashes on the WA state road network.

### **References**

Office of Road Safety (2009). *Towards Zero*. Retrieved from Perth, Australia: <http://www.ors.wa.gov.au/Documents/Strategies/ors-towards-zero-strategy.aspx>