

Agenda Item

Great Southern Roads Sub-Committee Report

17th February 2023

This group hasn't met this year thus far but a meeting is planned for the 3rd of March in Tambellup. Thanks must go to Elected Members and Shire staff at Broomehill-Tambellup for their willingness to host these Committee meetings. It is greatly appreciated. We meet at B-T as it is fairly central for everyone travelling.

There has been quite a bit of work done by WALGA Head Office staff who have brought into being the plan to begin the work of data collection and making sense of that data. This work at Head Office is greatly appreciated.

The next meeting on the 3rd of March will focus on ensuring that the mapping is complete and linked to the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network roads as much as possible. With the mapping complete and the list of roads finalised a RFQ will go out for the work to be undertaken. This work will be funded through a multifunding model involving Local Governments across the region. This will require a resolution from each Council to be involved in the co funding model of a \$4000 contribution from each Council to allow the work to get underway. WALGA Perth will work up draft recommendations to assist this process and send them through to WALGAGS members for consideration. I, or any other committee member is available at any time to answer questions to clarify any issue. To continue to move forward with this important study, we will need all Councils involved to collect data but also to contribute towards the work. It will simply not work otherwise. A resolution was passed at WALGAGS last year that supported this contribution of funds from each Council.

Plantagenet Shire Council have already passed a resolution to this effect late last year.

The GSDC and RDAGS have both indicated that they will contribute towards this work.

Some Councils have already collected data during this last harvest and this data will be useful. Other Councils might need assistance to collect data and additional road traffic counters might need to be secured to allow all the data to be collected in a timely manner.

I look forward to continuing the work of this important study. CBH informed us last year that a continuing increase in heavy freight of something like 7% annualised could be expected. While that figure might be a bit "tall" and will be dependent of seasonal factors, there is no doubt that year on year over time there will be increases to deal with and this will increase wear on our feeder roads.

While rail freight to port is being worked on and will assist the movement of grain into the future with fast loaders etc, this really only assists the State Network. The feeder roads under Local Government control will remain challenged without a secure and increasing funding model to address the shortfalls.

The committee remains determined to get on with the work, bringing clarity into the debate on road funding for the future.

Cr Len Handasyde

Chair Great Southern Roads Committee

Shire of Plantagenet.

Agenda Item