

9. WORKS & SERVICES POLICIES

9.1 TECHNICAL SERVICES

9.1.21 Road Traffic Safety

Purpose

To ensure the Shire has a robust approach to road traffic safety, embedding Safe System methodology through the implementation of a Road Safety Management System across the Shire's organisational activities.

Background and Issues

The Shire of Manjimup has management control of over 512 kilometres of sealed and 900 kilometres of unsealed roads across a 7,027 km² local government area. Between 2016-2020 there were 42 deaths and serious injuries on Shire of Manjimup roads. Therefore, through the necessity of community safety and asset management, the Shire has a significant role in the maintenance and construction of local roads for safe use by the travelling public. Driving Change – the Road Safety Strategy for Western Australia 2020-2030 and the National Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030 have both adopted a Safe Systems approach with the ultimate vision of zero deaths or serious injuries on Western Australian and Australian roads.

Objectives

The 'Safe System' philosophy brings a public health focus to road safety and involves all aspects of the road system working together to eliminate death and serious injury. The Safe System approach is considered to be world best practice and is guided by four principles:

- **Fallibility** – humans will continue to make mistakes, and the transport system should not result in death or serious injury as a consequence of errors on the roads.
- **Vulnerability** – the human body has limited physical ability to withstand crash forces without being killed or seriously injured. System designers need to consider the limits of the human body when designing and maintaining roads, vehicles and speeds.
- **Shared Responsibility** – it is no longer acceptable to operate a transport system that tolerates death and serious injury, the burden of road safety no longer rests solely with the individual road user. System managers have a primary responsibility to provide a safe operating environment for road users and ensure the system is forgiving when people make mistakes.
- **Systems approach** – all pillars of the road system need to be strengthened together to multiply their collective impact, so if one part fails, other parts will protect people involved from death or serious harm.

The Shire will adopt a policy of continual improvement through the means of a Road Safety Management System which will apply safe system principles where possible to all planning, maintenance, construction and operational policy on the Shire of Manjimup's road network. This policy will guide the system.

Area of Application

This policy applies to all Shire-managed roads, roadsides, footpaths and cycle paths across the local government area.

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Policy Measures

The key objectives for the Shire to achieve a Safe Road Traffic Management System is through:

Roads and roadsides

- Where possible consider separation of all road traffic (cars, bicycles and pedestrians) on roads, roadsides, footpaths and intersections.
- Provide crash protective roadsides to address run-off road collisions such as sealed/widened shoulders, barriers, audible edge lining, removal of hazards and improved lighting.
- Conduct a road safety audit on all new road construction projects.
- Provide road safety auditor training.
- Conduct a network road safety assessment and plan to identify and prioritise network safety deficiencies.

Intersections

- Ensure safe speeds at intersections to reduce side-on collisions.
- Install roundabouts where applicable.

Reducing travel speeds

- Targeted lower speed limits on roads and streets with mixed use where separation of motor vehicles and vulnerable road users may be difficult.

Fleet Safety

Development of a Shire Fleet Safety Policy, including:

- Safe journey planning, including consideration of the need to travel, the amount and mode of travel and choice of route, vehicle and driver Include fleet and driver safety in new employee inductions.
- Informed choice based on safety when purchasing and maintaining vehicles
- Only purchase/lease 5 star ANCAP rated vehicles.
- Ensure all drivers are licenced to drive the vehicle they are driving and enforce/support/monitor to ensure compliance.
- Vehicle purchasing policy should include vehicle safety checks and a process to remove update unfit vehicles.
- Data collection on fleet, drivers and incidences.
- Reinforcement of fleet safety through incentives and disincentives.
- Staff training, education and development programs.

Post-crash response

Post-crash response and first aid, emergency preparedness and post-crash recovery and rehabilitation

- Emergency response and first aid training is available for employees.
- Workplace insurance is provided.
- National and State Black Spot funding applications will be submitted for roads and intersections that meet the funding criteria.

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Administration

Administration responsibility for implementing this policy is delegated to the Director Works and Services, however delivery lies across many Shire business units. Related documents can be found in Appendix 1.

ADOPTED 07 JULY 2022

NEXT DUE FOR REVIEW JULY 2026

The Administration of this Policy is by the Works & Services Directorate.

APPENDIX 1

Related Documents

Strategic Community Plan 2021-31

- 3.0 Our Community – Community safety, Recreation and Leisure, Health and Wellbeing, Public transport services.
- 4.0 Our Infrastructure – Roads, Footpaths and bike paths, Traffic and parking, Town centres and streetscapes
- 5.0 Our Local Government – Community information and communications, Council leadership and decision making, Customer services, Community asset management, Long term management, Quality services, Service delivery, Regulatory compliance.

Shire of Manjimup Corporate Business Plan 2022-2026

Community Goals for Our Community

- 3.4 A range of efficient, safe and accessible public transport options are provided across the region.
- 3.6 Residents feel safe, secure and comfortable at home, work and at play.

Community Goals for Our Infrastructure

- 4.2 Community infrastructure is delivered and maintained at a level of service that is aligned with community needs now and in the future.
- 4.4 Town centres are accessible, attractive and inviting whilst maintaining their unique characters.
- 4.9 Transport infrastructure and networks provide for the safe movement of all users

Community Goals for Our Local Government

- 5.2 The Shire's long-term planning and activities deliver on the community's goals and aspirations.
- 5.3 Our elected members represent the best interests of the community.
- 5.7 Asset management plans are developed and implemented to maintain community assets at the appropriate standard.
- 5.8 The Shire continuously improves organisational performance and service delivery

Other informing Shire Plans

- 15 year Footpath Plan 2021-2036
- 15 year Road Construction Plan 2021-2036
- 15 year Gravel Resheet Plan 2021-2036
- 15 year Road Reseal Plan 2021-2036
- Asset Management plan – Roads, Footpaths and Drainage 2013-2014
- Asset Management Strategy 2013-2014
- Public Health Plan (in development)
- Local Bicycle Plan including Footpath plan 2017-2027
- Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2016/2020
- Manjimup SuperTown Growth Plan 2012
- Manjimup Trail Bike Feasibility Study 2017

Applicable Council policies

- Austroads Guide to Road Design

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- Council Policy 9.1.14 Road Hierarchy
- Council Policy 9.1.8 Road Reserve Vegetation Management
- Council Policy 9.15 Road Verge Directional Signs
- Council Policy 9.1.19 Variable Message Signs
- Council Policy 9.1.1 Road Use Approval for Permit Type loads
- Council Policy 9.1.12 Traffic Management for Events on Roads
- Council Policy 9.1.13 Private Services in Road Reserves
- Council Policy 10.1.2 Mersea Wilgarup and Corbalup Roads
- Council Policy 10.1.7 Cultivated Land Erosion Control
- Council Policy 3.1.4 Community Events requiring the Use of Public Roads
- Council Policy 6.1.11 Rural Land Use
- Council Policy 6.1.12 Structural Plans and Subdivisions

Speed Limits – ‘Safe Speeds’

- Council Policy 9.1.14 Road Hierarchy

Behaviour Change – ‘Safe People’

- Council Policy – 2.3.1 Employee Use of Shire of Manjimup Vehicles
- Council Policy – 3.1.8 Community Bus

Fleet – ‘Safe Vehicles’

- Council Policy – 2.3.2 Vehicle Specifications
- Council Policy – 2.3.5 Purchasing Policy
- Council Policy – 2.3.6 Tendering policy

Applicable Management Policies

- Management Policy - Transport Infrastructure Asset Management
- Management Policy – Crossovers – urban and rural specifications
- Management Policy – Connection to Shires Stormwater System
- Management Policy – Footpath Maintenance Policy