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**An Evaluation of the Effectiveness and Cost-effectiveness of a
Rural Run-off-road Crash Program in Western Australia**

Curtin-Monash Accident Research Centre

Faculty of Health Sciences

Curtin University of Technology

Perth WA 6102



Chow K, Meuleners L, Wong A

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Title

An Evaluation of the Effectiveness and Cost-effectiveness of a Rural Run-off-road Crash Program in Western Australia

Author(s)

Chow K, Meuleners L, Wong A

Performing Organisation

Curtin-Monash Accident Research Centre
Faculty of Health Sciences
Curtin University of Technology
7 Parker Place, Technology Park
Perth WA 6102
Tel: (08) 9266 4636
Fax: (08) 9266 2508

Sponsor

Main Roads Western Australia
Don Aitken Centre
Waterloo Crescent
EAST PERTH WA 6004

Abstract

Single vehicle loss-of-control run-off-road crashes are especially problematic in regional and remote Western Australia, where they accounted for almost 60% of all road deaths and serious injuries from 2008 to 2012.

Approximately 984 kilometres of rural WA roads were treated with run-off-road treatments under the rural Run-off-road Crash Program funded by the Road Trauma Trust Account in the 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 budgets. The aim of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of the program implemented to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured. Specific treatments examined included: “*shoulder widening and/or sealing*”, and “*audible edgelines*”.

Overall, 57 rural sites that met the inclusion criteria of the study reported a significant 35.5% reduction in Run-off-road Crashes (all severities) during the study period. The sites also reported a significant 18.4% reduction in Run-off-road casualty crashes, as well as a significant 25.6% reduction in Run-off-road Killed or Seriously Injured Crashes.

The Run-off-road Crash Program also performed well in economic terms. In relation to the net economic worth of the program, the Net Present Value and the Benefit-cost Ratio across all treatment sites were estimated to be \$100.2 million and 2.1 respectively.

Keywords

Rural run-off-road crashes, shoulder widening and/or sealing, audible edge lines, crash frequency, crash severity

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| LIST OF TABLES | 4 |
| LIST OF FIGURES | 5 |
| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | 6 |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | 9 |
| | |
| 1 BACKGROUND | 10 |
| 1.1 The use of run-off-road crash treatments in rural Western Australia | 10 |
| 1.2 Effectiveness of run-off-road crash treatments in reducing the frequency and severity of such crashes | 11 |
| 1.3 Aim | 12 |
| 1.4 Significance | 13 |
| | |
| 2 METHODS | 14 |
| 2.1 Study design | 14 |
| 2.2 Integrated Road Information System (IRIS) | 14 |
| 2.2.1 Operational definitions | 15 |
| 2.3 Treatment site data | 16 |
| 2.4 Criteria for exclusion of non-usable sites | 16 |
| 2.5 Traffic volume and length of each treated site | 17 |
| 2.6 Drop-offs in WA killed or seriously injured (KSI) crashes between 2014 and 2015 | 17 |
| 2.7 Regression to the mean | 21 |
| 2.8 Cost data | 21 |
| 2.9 Statistical analysis – effectiveness of the treatment | 23 |
| 2.10 Economic analysis – cost-effectiveness of the treatment | 23 |
| | |
| 3 RESULTS | |
| 3.1 All Sites Treated under the rural Run-off-Road Crash Program | 25 |
| 3.1.1 Sites with Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing as the only treatment | 27 |
| 3.1.2 Sites with Audible Edgelines or White Lines as the only treatment | 27 |
| 3.1.3 Sites treated with Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing, as well as Audible Edgelines | 27 |
| 3.2 Economic evaluation of the Run-off-road Crash Program | 28 |
| | |
| 4 DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS | 30 |
| | |
| REFERENCES | 32 |
| | |
| APPENDIX A | 34 |
| APPENDIX B | 35 |
| APPENDIX C | 37 |
| APPENDIX D | 37 |
| APPENDIX E | 38 |
| APPENDIX F | 38 |

LIST OF TABLES

| | | |
|-----------|---|----|
| Table 2.1 | Adjustment applied due to changes in KSI crashes reported/record | 20 |
| Table 3.1 | Reductions in Crashes at Sites Treated under the Rural Run-off-road Crash Program in WA | 26 |
| Table 3.2 | Economic Evaluation of the Run-off-road Crash Program in Relation to Run-off-road Crash Reductions in WA | 29 |
| Table 3.3 | Sensitivity Analysis for the Economic Evaluation of the Run-off-road Crash Program in Relation to Run-off-road Crash Reductions in WA | 29 |

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1 Fatal Crashes, Hospitalisation Crashes, and Medical Treatment Crashes as proportions of overall Casualty Crashes (Severity 1 + 2 + 3) in WA, 2002-2015 18

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In Western Australia (WA), single vehicle, loss-of-control, run-off-road crashes constitute around a third of all serious casualty crashes which equates to approximately 1,000 deaths and serious injuries in the state annually (Office of Road Safety 2009). Approximately one-fifth of metropolitan road deaths and serious injuries occur when a driver loses control of their vehicle and it leaves the road. Such crashes are especially problematic in regional and remote WA, where they accounted for almost 60% of all road deaths and serious injuries from 2008 to 2012 (Bramwell et al. 2014).

Approximately 984 kilometres of rural WA roads were treated with run-off-road treatments under the rural Run-off-road Crash Program funded by the Road Trauma Trust Account (RTTA) in the 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 budgets (as at 31st March 2016). The aim of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness in terms of reducing crashes and the cost-effectiveness of the rural Run-off-road Crash Program in WA, and specific treatments implemented to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured, namely:

- (1) *Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing* (as the only treatment),
- (2) *Audible Edgelines or White Lines* (as the only treatment), and
- (3) *Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing, with Audible Edgelines*.

As these treatments are intended to reduce the number of single vehicle, run-off-road crashes, this study adopted a quasi-experimental “before” and “after” comparison of (a) Run-off-road Crashes (all severities), (b) Run-off-road Casualty Crashes, and (c) Run-off-road Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) Crashes, at sites treated under the WA rural Run-off-road Crash Program between 2012 and 2015.

Overall, 57 rural sites that met the inclusion criteria of the study reported a significant 35.5% reduction in Run-off-road Crashes (all severities) during the study period (p-value < 0.001). The sites also reported a significant 18.4% reduction in Run-off-road Casualty Crashes (p-value = 0.021), as well as a significant 25.6% reduction in Run-off-road KSI Crashes (p-value = 0.031).

Reductions in Run-off-road Crashes at Sites Treated under the Run-off-road Crash Program in WA

| Treatment | | No. of Rural Sites in Sample | Incidence Rate Ratio (IRR) | Std. Err. of IRR | p-value (Probability 0 < p < 1) | Crash Reduction (%) |
|--|---|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Run-off-road Crashes (Severity 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5) | All Run-off-road Crash Treatments | 57 | 0.645 | 0.040 | < 0.001 | 35.5% |
| | Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing (only) | 12 | 0.401 | 0.085 | < 0.001 | 59.9% |
| | Audible Edgelines (AEL) or White Lines (only) | 15 | 0.783 | 0.042 | < 0.001 | 21.7% |
| | Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing, with AEL | 27 | 0.596 | 0.131 | 0.018 | 40.4% |
| | Other Treatment or Combinations | 3 | 0.515 | 0.323 | 0.290 | 48.5% * |
| Run-off-road Casualty Crashes (Severity 1 + 2 + 3) | All Run-off-road Crash Treatments | 57 | 0.816 | 0.072 | 0.021 | 18.4% |
| | Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing (only) | 12 | 0.481 | 0.141 | 0.012 | 51.9% |
| | Audible Edgelines (AEL) or White Lines (only) | 15 | 1.024 | 0.088 | 0.784 | -2.4% *+ |
| | Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing, with AEL | 27 | 0.545 | 0.174 | 0.057 | 45.5% * |
| | Other Treatment or Combinations | 3 | 0.604 | 0.380 | 0.423 | 39.6% * |
| Run-off-road Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) Crashes (Severity 1 + 2) | All Run-off-road Crash Treatments | 57 | 0.744 | 0.102 | 0.031 | 25.6% |
| | Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing (only) | 12 | 0.360 | 0.185 | 0.047 | 64.0% |
| | Audible Edgelines (AEL) or White Lines (only) | 15 | 0.901 | 0.134 | 0.483 | 9.9% * |
| | Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing, with AEL | 27 | 0.543 | 0.213 | 0.120 | 45.7% * |
| | Other Treatment or Combinations | 3 | 0.943 | 0.587 | 0.925 | 5.7% * |

* Increase/reduction in crashes is not statistically significant (p -value > 0.05).

+ Negative reduction indicates an increase.

The treatment “*shoulder widening and/or sealing*” was found to be highly successful in reducing both the frequency and severity of run-off-road crashes. “*Audible edgelines or white lines*” was also successful in reducing the frequency of such crashes, but appeared to be less successful in reducing the more severe of such crashes when implemented as the only treatment.

Such reductions, at a first glance, appeared to be diminished when the above two treatments were applied together at 27 sites in the study. This is, however, not surprising given the relatively short “after” exposure available for these sites, even after adjusting for exposure, as these were still much less than the recommended three to five years of crash data needed for this type of analysis (Nicholson 1986). Should longer “after” exposure be available then the real effects (either increases or reductions) could become more apparent.

The Run-off-road Crash Program also performed well in economic terms. In relation to the net economic worth of the program, the NPV and the BCR across all treatment sites were estimated to be \$100.2 million and 2.1 respectively. Sites treated with “*audible edgelines or white lines*” had a better rate of return than other sites, with a BCR of 3.4, possibly due to the relatively low costs of such treatment. Sites treated with both “*shoulder widening and/or*

sealing” and “*audible edgelines*” together had a lower rate of return (BCR = 1.6) than sites treated with only one of the two treatments, again possibly due to the relatively short “after” exposure observed for these sites.

Economic Evaluation of the Run-off-road Crash Program in Relation to Run-off-road Crash Reductions in WA

| | Discount Rate | Treatment Life (years) | Present Value (PV) of Total Costs (\$) | Present Value (PV) of Crash Cost Savings (\$) | Net Present Value (NPV) (\$) | Benefit-cost Ratio (BCR) |
|---|---------------|------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| All Run-off-road Crash Treatments | 5% | 15 | 92,819,693 | 192,998,346 | 100,178,653 | 2.1 |
| Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing (only) | 5% | 15 | 29,030,594 | 88,686,994 | 59,656,400 | 3.1 |
| Audible Edgelines (AEL) or White Lines (only) | 5% | 15 | 6,701,071 | 22,778,123 | 16,077,052 | 3.4 |
| Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing, with AEL | 5% | 15 | 49,651,053 | 81,311,499 | 31,660,446 | 1.6 |
| Other Treatment or Combinations | 5% | 15 | 7,436,976 | 221,730 | -7,215,246 | 0.0 |

It is recommended that the Run-off-road Crash Program be continued as both its overall effectiveness and cost-effectiveness are apparent. Considering that the positive outcomes from this study were obtained from conservative assumptions and adjustments, the real effects from the program could be better than reported.

It is also recommended that the analysis be repeated after observation of longer “after” exposure for the treated sites, particularly for the 27 sites treated with both “*shoulder widening and/or sealing*” and “*audible edgelines*”.

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1 BACKGROUND

In Western Australia (WA), single vehicle, loss-of-control, run-off-road crashes constitute around a third of all serious casualty crashes which equates to approximately 1,000 deaths and serious injuries in the state annually (Office of Road Safety 2009). Approximately one-fifth of metropolitan road deaths and serious injuries occur when a driver loses control of their vehicle and it leaves the road. Such crashes are especially problematic in regional and remote WA, where they accounted for almost 60% of all road deaths and serious injuries from 2008 to 2012 (Bramwell et al. 2014).

Drivers can potentially lose control of their vehicle for a variety of reasons, which can include inappropriate speed, poor perception, inadequate control, poor driving conditions, distraction or fatigue (Szwed 2011). When a driver loses control of a vehicle and it runs off the road, he has the potential to hit a roadside hazard causing the vehicle to roll over. Vehicles are not designed to withstand the impact forces associated with a roll-over, thus leaving occupants unprotected (Szwed 2011). Collisions with roadside objects often involve fatal and serious trauma and are a great burden on society.

In rural areas especially, the unsealed shoulders of sealed roads pose a major hazard to drivers. When running off the bitumen, the left wheel(s) of a vehicle may come into contact with the soft-edge of the road such as gravel or dirt shoulder. Drivers often make a sharp overcorrection to the right to bring the vehicle back onto the road, leading to the vehicle leaving the road or colliding with another vehicle (Meuleners & Hendrie 2009).

Towards Zero, the State's road safety strategy for 2008-2020 has identified rural run-off-road crashes as a priority area due to the large contribution this particular crash type has on the number of people killed or seriously injured. In 2013, increased funding from the Road Trauma Trust Account (RTTA) meant the Regional Run-off-road Program was the largest funded program at the time with \$37 million allocated to its further development and implementation (<http://apps.mainroads.wa.gov.au/ar-2013/online/officeofroadsafety-cs1.html>).

1.1 The use of run-off-road crash treatments in rural Western Australia

According to information provided by Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA), approximately 984 kilometres of rural WA roads were treated with run-off-road treatments under the rural Run-off-road Crash Program funded by the Road Trauma Trust Account

(RTTA) in the 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 budgets (as at 31st March 2016). Of these, approximately 204 km of road were treated with “*shoulder widening and/or sealing*” (as the only treatment), 350 km with “*audible edgelines or white lines*” (as the only treatment), 387 km with “*shoulder widening and/or sealing*” as well as “*audible edgelines*”, and 43 km with some variations of the above treatments.

Both “*audible edgelines*” and “*shoulder widening and/or sealing*” are countermeasures that aim to prevent vehicles from running off the road. An “*audible edgeline*” is a narrow band of raised or grooved material placed on the road surface at the edge of the road. When the tyres of a moving vehicle come into contact with the “*edgeline*”, it creates noise and vibration that can be heard and felt inside the vehicle. The idea behind these “*audible edgelines*” is to warn or alert distracted or fatigued drivers that they have crossed an “*edgeline*”, allowing the driver time to react and correct the vehicle and avoid running into roadside objects (Woolley & McLean 2006; Meuleners & Hendrie 2009).

The primary effect of “*shoulder widening and/or sealing*” on rural roads is to provide drivers greater manoeuvring space and opportunity to recover safely before their vehicle hits the soft edge of the road or roadside objects. It also reduces the potential for vehicles which stray from the sealed pavement to lose control in loose shoulder material (Meuleners & Hendrie 2009).

1.2 Effectiveness of run-off-road crash treatments in reducing the frequency and severity of such crashes

“*Audible edgelines*” were shown to have an alerting effect on drivers in a driving simulator study (Anund et al. 2008), and had led to significant but varying reductions in run-off-road crashes on major interstate roads in the United States (Federal Highway Administration, 2001).

In Australia, early research found unsealed shoulders to be a contributing factor in over 50% of fatal run-off-road crashes in New South Wales (Catchpole, 1990). This was consistent with later research that highlighted the safety benefits and cost-effectiveness of sealed shoulders (Meuleners & Hendrie 2009).

Meuleners & Hendrie (2009) considered a sample of 13 sites on Albany Highway, WA that were treated with “*shoulder sealing*” and/or “*audible edgelines*” as part of the WA State Black Spot Program during 2000 to 2004. Their results showed the “*shoulder sealing*”

and/or “audible edgelines” treatments that were applied to the 13 sites to have been effective overall, reducing the frequencies of all reported crashes by 58% and casualty crashes by 79%. The 13 sites with the mix of treatment(s) also observed reductions in the targeted run-off-road crashes by 59% and run-off-road casualty crashes by 80%. However, the relatively small sample of sites (thus observations) that were available did not enable the effects due to individual treatments to be identified separately.

Zhang et al. (2014), Meuleners et al. (2014) and Chow et al. (2015) also found sites treated with “shoulder sealing” or “edgelines” in the more recent 2007/08, 2009/10 and 2011/12 WA State Black Spot Programs to have varying degrees of success in reducing all reported crashes and casualty crashes. “Shoulder sealing” was found to have significantly reduced all reported crashes by 44.4% (n = 17), 39.0% (n = 10) and 50.1% (n = 7) in the 2007/08, 2009/10 and 2011/12 programs respectively, and casualty crashes by 42.9% at sites treated in 2007/08. Of these more recent State Black Spot Programs only the 2007/08 program had sites treated with “edgelines” and Chow et al. (2015) found the treatment to have reduced all reported crashes by 43.9% (n = 4). The studies also did not specifically target run-off-road crashes nor rural run-off-road crashes.

1.3 Aim

The aim of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness in terms of reducing crashes and the cost-effectiveness of the rural Run-off-road Crash Program in WA, and specific treatments implemented to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured, namely:

- (1) *Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing* (as the only treatment),
- (2) *Audible Edgelines or White Lines* (as the only treatment), and
- (3) *Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing, with Audible Edgelines.*

As these treatments are intended to reduce the number of single vehicle, run-off-road crashes, an evaluation of their effectiveness specifically in reducing such crashes was undertaken using the following data:

- (a) Run-off-road Crashes (all severities),
- (b) Run-off-road Casualty Crashes, and
- (c) Run-off-road Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) Crashes.

1.4 Significance

The results from this study will provide WA road authorities with more objective information to guide treatment investment choices. It is anticipated that these results will also serve to highlight the significance of road trauma on rural roads, and the role that good traffic engineering and road design can contribute towards a reduction of injuries and deaths on WA roads.

2 METHODS

This study examined the effectiveness of the WA rural Run-off-road Crash Program and specific treatments such as “*shoulder widening and/or sealing*” and “*audible edgelines*” in reducing the frequency and severity of such crashes.

2.1 Study design

This study adopted a quasi-experimental “before” and “after” comparison of (1) Run-off-road Crashes (all severities), (2) Run-off-road Casualty Crashes, and (3) Run-off-road Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) Crashes, at sites treated under the WA rural Run-off-road Crash Program between 2012 and 2015.

2.2 Integrated Road Information System (IRIS)

Crash data were obtained from the Integrated Road Information System (IRIS) which is maintained by MRWA. It was used to identify crashes at sites treated (before and after the treatment) which occurred in Western Australia during the period 25th February, 2007 (5 years before the first such treatment) to 31st December, 2015 hereinafter referred to as the study period.

The IRIS database contains detailed information on the characteristics of the vehicles involved in road crashes, crash circumstances, Police reported injury and road information related to the crash location. Crash data for the evaluation was obtained up to and including 31st December, 2015.

The Road Use Movement (RUM) Code was used to identify run-off-road crashes. For the purpose of this report, a single vehicle run-off-road crash was defined as a crash with RUM Code 71, 72, 73, 74, 81, 82, 83 or 84 that did not occur at an intersection.

Critical data retrieved for use in the study were:

- crash date;
- crash severity; and
- specific crash location.

The study adopted an approach that utilised five years of pre-treatment crash data as well as up to five years (if available) of post-treatment crash data which excluded the construction period. Crash data which was used in the analysis included all fatal, hospitalisation, medical

treatment and PDO run-off-road crashes. This was consistent with MRWA's intention to ensure application of funds to a wider range of projects at hazardous situations using different thresholds such as run-off-road crashes (all severities) or run-off-road casualty crashes rather than run-off-road KSI crashes only. Separate analyses by run-off-road casualty crashes only and by run-off-road KSI crashes only were also undertaken.

2.2.1 Operational definitions

The definition of a crash used throughout this report is the definition used by the Road Safety Council in its annual publication "Reported Road Crashes in Western Australia 2013" (Office of Road Safety 2014). That is, a crash is "*any unpremeditated incident where in the course of the use of any vehicle on a road that was not temporarily closed off to the public, a person is injured or property is damaged. The crash must involve vehicle movement and does not include collisions that occur due to a medical condition, deliberate acts (e.g. suicide attempts) or police chases*".

The severity of a crash is derived from "*the most serious injury in a crash*". A fatal crash is "*a road crash in which at least one person was killed immediately or died within 30 days of the crash, as a result of the crash*". A hospitalisation crash is a road crash that involved at least one admission to hospital but "*no fatalities within 30 days of the crash*". A medical treatment crash (or medical attention crash) is "*a road crash in which the most serious injury resulted in a person requiring medical treatment, but without being admitted to hospital*". A property damage only (PDO) crash involved no/unknown injuries only.

For the purpose of this report, a killed or seriously injured (KSI) crash was defined as a road crash that resulted in at least one person who was either "*killed immediately or died within 30 days of the day of the road crash as a result of the crash*" or "*admitted to hospital as a result of the road crash and who does not die from injuries sustained in the crash within 30 days of the crash*".

KSI crashes include all fatal crashes, and hospitalisation crashes. Casualty crashes include all fatal crashes, hospitalisation crashes, and medical treatment crashes. All reported crashes include all fatal crashes, hospitalisation crashes, medical treatment crashes, as well as PDO crashes.

In WA, it is mandatory for the driver of a vehicle to report a traffic crash when the incident occurred on a road or any place commonly used by the public, e.g. carparks; and

- the incident resulted in bodily harm to any person; or
- the total value of property damaged to all involved parties exceeds \$3000; or
- the owner or representative of any damaged property is not present.

2.3 Treatment site data

A list of rural WA sites treated under the Run-off-road Crash Program funded by the RTTA was provided by MRWA. The list includes information on each site (as an individual project) such as “road name”, “road number”, “project description” (i.e. treatment implemented), “start SLK”, “end SLK”, “start date” and “end date” of the construction period of treatment, as well as the initial cost (capital outlay) in treating the site.

Approximately 984 kilometres of rural WA roads were treated in the 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 budgets (as at 31st March 2016). Of these, approximately 204 km was treated with “*shoulder widening and/or sealing*” (as the only treatment), 350 km with “*audible edgelines (AEL) or white lines*” (as the only treatment), 387 km with “*shoulder widening and/or sealing, with AEL*”, and 43 km with some variations of the above treatments.

2.4 Criteria for exclusion of non-usable sites

Not all sites provided by MRWA could be utilised for the study, only those sites with the necessary information remained in the final sample. There was a strict set of criteria, discussed with MRWA. Exclusion criteria included:

- Sites with an “after” exposure period of less than six months.
- Sites with no run-off-road crashes reported in the “before” exposure period, prior to implementation of the treatment.

Nine out of a list of 66 sites were excluded. A final sample of 57 sites was utilised for the study, consisting of approximately 944 km of rural roads. Of these, 12 sites (187 km) were treated with “*shoulder widening and/or sealing*” (as the only treatment), 15 sites (350 km) were treated with “*audible edgelines (AEL) or white lines*” (as the only treatment), 27 sites (365 km) were treated with “*shoulder widening and/or sealing, with AEL*”, and 3 sites (43 km) were with other treatments.

2.5 Traffic volume and length of each treated site

For the purpose of this analysis it was assumed that before and after traffic volumes remained constant for the treated sites during the study period. The annual average daily traffic (AADT) figures held by MRWA have, on average, an approximate growth rate of 2.17% per annum across the WA road network. Therefore, the assumption of constant traffic volumes means that results from this study would likely be conservative.

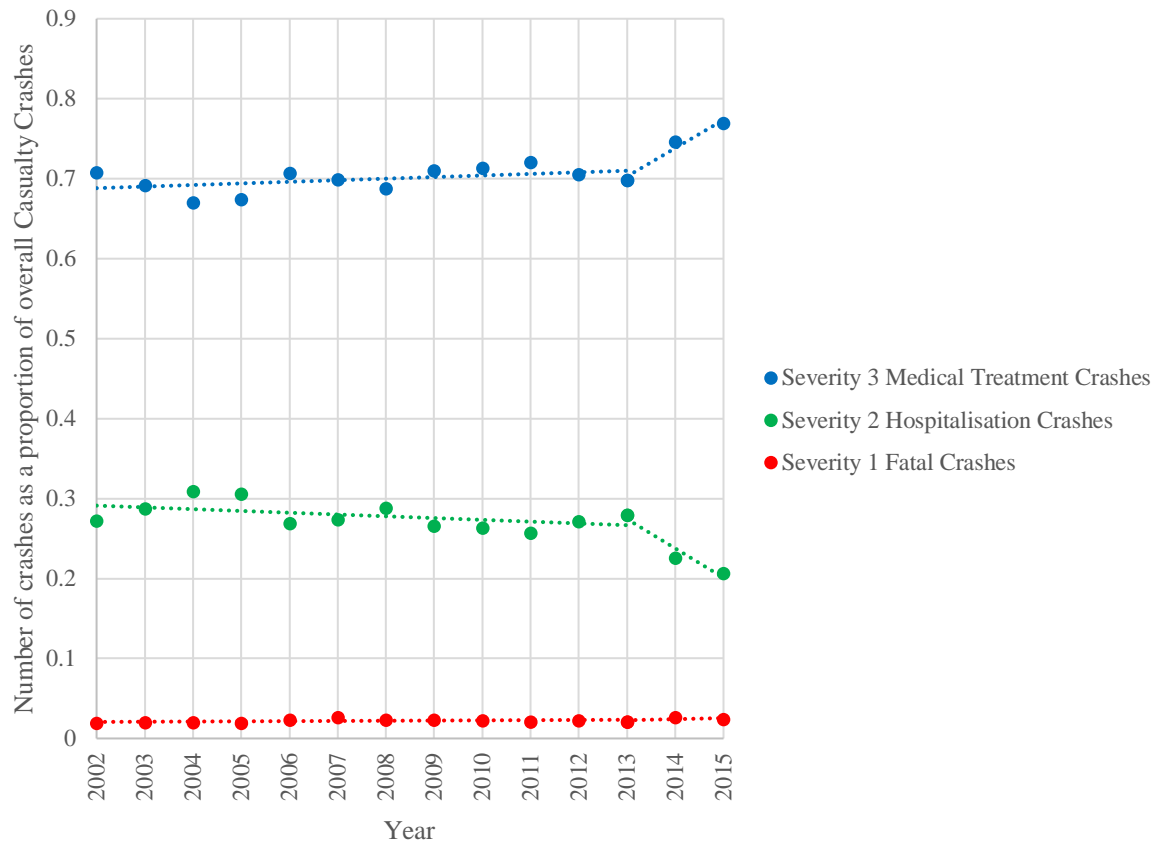
Effects due to the length of each treated site (road section) were not considered for the study, as the length remained unchanged across the “before” and “after” periods, for each treated site.

2.6 Drop-offs in WA killed or seriously injured (KSI) crashes between 2014 and 2015

The years 2014 and 2015 observed unusual drop-offs in the number of KSI crashes reported/recorded in WA compared to the years before. It was suspected that such drop-offs could have been due to administrative changes in the reporting and/or recording of crashes from 2014. A number of 2014 and 2015 crashes that would have been classified as Hospitalisation Crashes (Severity 2) had they been reported in 2013 or before, were now classified as Medical Treatment Crashes (Severity 3). In order to utilise 2014 and 2015 crashes in the study, some adjustment were required so they could be comparable to crashes before 2014.

Although there was a migration between hospitalisation crashes (Severity 2) and medical treatment crashes (Severity 3) from 2014, it is expected that the total count of casualty crashes (Severity 1 + 2 + 3) would remain the same irrespective to the degree of migration between hospitalisation crashes (Severity 2) and medical treatment crashes (Severity 3). Therefore, the 2014 and 2015 casualty crashes (Severity 1 + 2 + 3) could be assumed to be reliable and comparable to the casualty crashes before 2014. Figure 2.1 demonstrates that fatal crashes (Severity 1) (as a proportion of overall casualty crashes) remained stable and followed a consistent trend from 2002 to 2015. Hospitalisation crashes (Severity 2) (as a proportion of overall casualty crashes) also remained stable and followed another consistent trend from 2002 to 2013, until an obvious drop-off from 2014. Similarly, medical treatment crashes (Severity 3) (as a proportion of overall casualty crashes) remained stable and followed its own consistent trend from 2002 to 2013, before an obvious increase from 2014.

Figure 2.1 Fatal Crashes, Hospitalisation Crashes, and Medical Treatment Crashes as proportions of overall Casualty Crashes (Severity 1 + 2 + 3) in WA, 2002-2015



For all run-off-road crashes in this study, an “additive” approach then was taken to adjust for the migration of hospitalisation crashes (Severity 2) into medical treatment crashes (Severity 3). Had the stable trend in hospitalisation crashes (Severity 2) (as a proportion of overall casualty crashes) from 2002 to 2013 continued into 2014 and 2015, there would have been an additional 0.17 hospitalisation crash (Severity 2) for every 2014 casualty crash (Severity 1, 2 or 3) reported/recorded, and an additional 0.27 hospitalisation crash (Severity 2) for every 2015 casualty crash reported/recorded. Thus an adjustment method which followed that of Table 2.1 was utilised.

Table 2.1 Adjustment applied due to changes in KSI crashes reported/recorded

| | Before Adjustment | After Adjustment |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Crashes Before 2014 | Each Severity 1 Crash | 1 × Severity 1 Crash |
| | Each Severity 2 Crash | 1 × Severity 2 Crash |
| | Each Severity 3 Crash | 1 × Severity 3 Crash (No Adjustment) |
| | Each Severity 4 Crash | 1 × Severity 4 Crash |
| | Each Severity 5 Crash | 1 × Severity 5 Crash |
| Crashes in 2014 | Each Severity 1 Crash | 1 × Severity 1 Crash + 0.17 × Severity 2 Crash |
| | Each Severity 2 Crash | 1 × Severity 2 Crash + 0.17 × Severity 2 Crash = 1.17 × Severity 2 Crash |
| | Each Severity 3 Crash | 1 × Severity 3 Crash + 0.17 × Severity 2 Crash |
| | Each Severity 4 Crash | 1 × Severity 4 Crash (No Adjustment) |
| | Each Severity 5 Crash | 1 × Severity 5 Crash (No Adjustment) |
| Crashes in 2015 | Each Severity 1 Crash | 1 × Severity 1 Crash + 0.27 × Severity 2 Crash |
| | Each Severity 2 Crash | 1 × Severity 2 Crash + 0.27 × Severity 2 Crash = 1.27 × Severity 2 Crash |
| | Each Severity 3 Crash | 1 × Severity 3 Crash + 0.27 × Severity 2 Crash |
| | Each Severity 4 Crash | 1 × Severity 4 Crash (No Adjustment) |
| | Each Severity 5 Crash | 1 × Severity 5 Crash (No Adjustment) |

Note that this additive adjustment method did not detract from any of the “extra” medical treatment crashes (Severity 3). This ensured that (1) the final number of run-off-road KSI crashes (after adjustment) would be reliable and realistic in both the “before” and “after” periods of the study; while (2) the final number of run-off-road casualty crashes (after adjustment) could only be worse than it really was in the “after” period; and similarly (3) the final number of run-off-road crashes (all severities) (after adjustment) in the “after” period could also only be worse. This approach was the more conservative of the options available.

2.7 Regression to the mean

The high crash rates observed at some sites may possibly be due to chance or a combination of both chance and the hazardousness of the site. Even if no treatment is to be carried out, some of these sites will likely have fewer crashes in the subsequent period because the number of crashes will tend to gravitate to the long-term mean. Under these conditions, the effect of any treatment is likely to be over-estimated. Failing to allow for the regression to the mean effect can result in statistically significant results for treatments that are in fact ineffective.

On the basis of work reported by Nicholson (1986), at least three and preferably five years of data is the preferred before and after time period to smooth out any random fluctuations as well as to provide sufficient evidence of any trend or change in an established pattern of crashes. Five years of pre-treatment crash data and at least six months of post-treatment crash data were used for all sites evaluated in the study. The statistical methodology used in this report also recognised the level and distribution of random variation in the data and provided appropriate confidence intervals and significance levels.

2.8 Cost data

Two types of cost data were used in the evaluation of the economic worth of the Run-off-road Crash Program: the costs of implementing the program and the cost savings from a reduction in the number of road crashes as a result of the program being implemented.

The costs of treating the sites include both the initial capital outlay as well as operating and maintenance costs. As discussed previously (section 2.3), MRWA provided the initial capital outlay for each site included in the study. The initial capital outlay was obtained from recorded expenditure, and operating and maintenance costs and expected treatment life were estimated by treatment type.

The operating and maintenance cost for shoulder widening and/or sealing is on average approximately \$500 per km per annum across the WA road network; while audible edgelines as a treatment is in general re-applied approximately every 4 years at an average cost of \$3000 per km (i.e. effectively an operating and maintenance cost of \$750 per km per annum). However, such costs might be higher for a particular site depending on its condition and traffic volume experienced. This study took a very conservative approach in ensuring that the operating and maintenance costs were not under-estimated. For the 350 km of rural roads treated with audible edgelines or white lines (as the only treatment) under the Run-off-road Crash Program, the initial capital outlay was on average \$5327.99 per km. Taking this \$5327.99 also as the operating and maintenance cost for such sites every 4 years (instead of \$3000), the annual operating and maintenance cost was thus over-estimated to be \$1332.00 per km per annum. As other sites under the same rural Run-off-road Crash Program were expected to experience similar conditions and traffic volumes, a multiplication factor ($\$5327.99 \div \$3000 = 1.78$) was applied as a “site condition adjustment” such that $1.78 \times \$500 = \888.00 was used as an over-estimate for the cost per km per annum for operating and maintaining the shoulder widening and/or sealing treatment at the rural sites. The operating and maintenance cost for shoulder widening and/or sealing together with AEL was then estimated to be $\$888.00 + \$1332.00 = \$2220.00$ per km per annum. For the 3 sites in sample with other treatments, the cost of the most similar treatment from above was used as an estimate for each site. All final costs used were likely to be over-estimates and this would ensure the cost savings from any economic analysis to be conservative.

The cost savings from fewer road crashes at treated sites were calculated using the road crash severity costs for WA as provided by MRWA, based on the Willingness to Pay (WTP) approach of estimating crash severity costs. These costs include the human costs of treating injuries plus any associated productivity losses and loss of functioning, vehicle repair and related costs, and general crash costs. Excluded are road user costs such as vehicle operating costs and travel time. Applying certain treatments may change the travel time on particular routes as well as vehicle operating costs and maintenance costs. However, to include this type of analysis in calculating the benefits and costs of treated sites requires extensive data and for this reason studies evaluating the cost-effectiveness of road safety treatments such as black spot programs tend to exclude these costs (Bureau of Transport Economics, 2001). The unit of costing used in calculating the economic worth of the Run-off road Crash Program

was the road crash, with unit road crash costs (using averages from rural WA crashes in 2011-2015) expressed in 2015 Australian dollars shown below.

| <u>Crash Severity</u> | <u>\$</u> |
|--|-----------|
| Severity 1 - Fatal | 8,302,821 |
| Severity 2 - Hospitalisation | 484,526 |
| Severity 3 - Medical Treatment | 102,185 |
| Severity 4 or 5 - Property Damage Only | 12,062 |

2.9 Statistical analysis – effectiveness of the treatment

The frequencies of crashes between “before” and “after” treatment periods were compared in the analysis. The study used a generalised estimating equation (GEE) Poisson regression model to evaluate the sites treated under the Run-off-road Crash Program. The number of run-off-road crashes in one year is a discrete “count” variable and assumed to follow a Poisson distribution. However, the application of standard Poisson regression analysis was inappropriate due to the longitudinal nature of the observations, while the GEE was one of the more appropriate methods that could accommodate the inherent correlation of the longitudinal data. The decision to use the GEE Poisson model took into account the correlated nature of the repeated measures taken before and after each run-off-road crash treatment.

The correct effect of each treatment could also be estimated by the GEE Poisson regression model, as robust standard errors were generated to provide valid statistical inferences. Details about the GEE technique can be found in Dupont (2002) and Twisk (2003).

The model was fitted to the data using the Stata (Version 12) statistical package.

2.10 Economic analysis – cost-effectiveness of the treatment

Two indicators of the economic worth of the program were calculated: the net present value (NPV) and the benefit-cost ratio (BCR).

NPV is the difference between the present value of the time stream of cost savings from a reduction in road crashes and the present value of the time stream of costs incurred to achieve these savings. In the case of the Run-off-Road Crash Program, the latter include the capital costs of installing the treatments and maintenance and operating costs. NPV is expressed in monetary terms, with a NPV significantly greater than zero indicating a project is

worthwhile. If the economic worth of two or more projects is being compared then the project with the highest NPV is the most worthwhile.

The BCR is the ratio of the present value of the time stream of cost savings from a reduction in road crashes to the present value of the time stream of costs incurred to achieve these savings. It has no units, since it is a ratio of monetary values. A BCR significantly greater than one indicates a project is worthwhile, or if the economic worth of two or more projects are being compared then the project with the highest BCR is the most worthwhile.

The formulas for calculating the NPV and BCR are as follows –

$$NPV = \sum_{i=0}^n (B_i / (1+r)^i) - \sum_{i=0}^n (C_i / (1+r)^i)$$

$$BCR = \left[\sum_{i=0}^n (B_i / (1+r)^i) \right] / \left[\sum_{i=0}^n (C_i / (1+r)^i) \right]$$

- where
- B_i = benefits in year resulting from savings in road crash costs
 - C_i = costs of installing run-off-road crash treatments in year 0 and the operating and maintenance costs in subsequent years
 - r = discount rate (5% used in the base case analysis)
 - n = the expected life of the project (15 years assumed for all treatments)

NPVs and BCRs were calculated using the following sources of data: (i) the capital costs of initial treatment of the sites, (ii) the maintenance and operating costs of treatments, (iii) the expected treatment life, (iv) the effectiveness of treatments in reducing the number of road crashes, and (v) the unit road crash cost data. The treatment life of projects varied between 10 and 20 years, with an average treatment life of 15 years. This latter was varied to 10 years and 20 years in the sensitivity analysis. Maintenance and operating costs were estimated on an annual basis and assumed to remain constant throughout the expected life of the treatment. Likewise savings from a reduction in road crash costs achieved since installing the treatments were assumed to be maintained over the entire expected life of the treatments. Future costs and cost savings were discounted using a 5% discount rate in the base case, with 3% and 8% used in the sensitivity analysis. Again 5% was the discount rate suggested by MRWA. NPVs and BCRs were calculated for the whole Run-off-road Crash Program and separately for individual treatment types.

3 RESULTS

3.1 All Sites Treated under the rural Run-off-Road Crash Program

There was a total of 57 rural sites that met the inclusion criteria. The exposure time for the “before” period was 1826 days for all sites. The mean exposure time for the “after” period was 695.1 days with a standard deviation of 303.6 days.

Table 3.1 details the reductions in Run-off-road Crashes (all severities), Run-off-road Casualty Crashes, and Run-off-road Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) Crashes, observed at all sites in the study. Overall, the 57 rural sites reported a significant 35.5% reduction in Run-off-road Crashes during the study period (p-value < 0.001). The sites also reported a significant 18.4% reduction in Run-off-road Casualty Crashes (p-value = 0.021), as well as a significant 25.6% reduction in Run-off-road KSI Crashes (p-value = 0.031).

Table 3.1 Reductions in Crashes at Sites Treated under the Rural Run-off-road Crash Program in WA

| Treatment | No. of Rural Sites in Sample | Exposure (days) - Before Treatment | Number of Crashes - Before Treatment | | Mean Exposure (days) - After Treatment | Number of Crashes - After Treatment | | Incidence Rate Ratio (IRR) | Std. Err. of IRR | p-value (Probability 0 < p < 1) | 95% C.I. of IRR | | Crash Reduction (%) | |
|--|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|--|-------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|----------|
| | | | Raw Count | Adjusted | | Raw Count | Adjusted | | | | - Lower Bound | - Upper Bound | | |
| Run-off-road Crashes (Severity 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5) | All Run-off-road Crash Treatments | 57 | 1826 | 441 | 441.17 | 695.1 | 134 | 141.93 | 0.645 | 0.040 | < 0.001 | 0.571 | 0.728 | 35.5% |
| | Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing (only) | 12 | 1826 | 72 | 72 | 728.1 | 11 | 11.98 | 0.401 | 0.085 | < 0.001 | 0.265 | 0.608 | 59.9% |
| | Audible Edgelines (AEL) or White Lines (only) | 15 | 1826 | 237 | 237 | 975.8 | 101 | 106.09 | 0.783 | 0.042 | < 0.001 | 0.704 | 0.871 | 21.7% |
| | Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing, with AEL | 27 | 1826 | 123 | 123.17 | 545.3 | 21 | 22.59 | 0.596 | 0.131 | 0.018 | 0.388 | 0.916 | 40.4% |
| | Other Treatment or Combinations | 3 | 1826 | 9 | 9 | 507.7 | 1 | 1.27 | 0.515 | 0.323 | 0.290 | 0.151 | 1.758 | 48.5% * |
| Run-off-road Casualty Crashes (Severity 1 + 2 + 3) | All Run-off-road Crash Treatments | 57 | 1826 | 192 | 192.17 | 695.1 | 59 | 66.93 | 0.816 | 0.072 | 0.021 | 0.687 | 0.970 | 18.4% |
| | Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing (only) | 12 | 1826 | 36 | 36 | 728.1 | 6 | 6.98 | 0.481 | 0.141 | 0.012 | 0.271 | 0.853 | 51.9% |
| | Audible Edgelines (AEL) or White Lines (only) | 15 | 1826 | 85 | 85 | 975.8 | 43 | 48.09 | 1.024 | 0.088 | 0.784 | 0.865 | 1.211 | -2.4% *+ |
| | Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing, with AEL | 27 | 1826 | 63 | 63.17 | 545.3 | 9 | 10.59 | 0.545 | 0.174 | 0.057 | 0.292 | 1.018 | 45.5% * |
| | Other Treatment or Combinations | 3 | 1826 | 8 | 8 | 507.7 | 1 | 1.27 | 0.604 | 0.380 | 0.423 | 0.176 | 2.072 | 39.6% * |
| Run-off-road Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) Crashes (Severity 1 + 2) | All Run-off-road Crash Treatments | 57 | 1826 | 115 | 115.17 | 695.1 | 28 | 35.93 | 0.744 | 0.102 | 0.031 | 0.569 | 0.973 | 25.6% |
| | Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing (only) | 12 | 1826 | 21 | 21 | 728.1 | 2 | 2.98 | 0.360 | 0.185 | 0.047 | 0.131 | 0.987 | 64.0% |
| | Audible Edgelines (AEL) or White Lines (only) | 15 | 1826 | 50 | 50 | 975.8 | 20 | 25.09 | 0.901 | 0.134 | 0.483 | 0.673 | 1.206 | 9.9% * |
| | Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing, with AEL | 27 | 1826 | 39 | 39.17 | 545.3 | 5 | 6.59 | 0.543 | 0.213 | 0.120 | 0.252 | 1.172 | 45.7% * |
| | Other Treatment or Combinations | 3 | 1826 | 5 | 5 | 507.7 | 1 | 1.27 | 0.943 | 0.587 | 0.925 | 0.279 | 3.192 | 5.7% * |

* Increase/reduction in crashes is not statistically significant (p-value > 0.05).

+ Negative reduction indicates an increase.

3.1.1 Sites with Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing as the only treatment

For the 12 sites with “*Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing*” as the only treatment, the exposure time for the “before” period was also 1826 days for all sites. The mean exposure time for the “after” period was 728.1 days with a standard deviation of 223.7 days.

The 12 sites reported a significant 59.9% reduction in Run-off-road Crashes (p-value < 0.001). The sites also reported a significant 51.9% reduction in Run-off-road Casualty Crashes (p-value = 0.012), as well as a significant 64.0% reduction in Run-off-road KSI Crashes (p-value = 0.047).

3.1.2 Sites with Audible Edgelines or White Lines as the only treatment

For the 15 sites with “*Audible Edgelines or White Lines*” as the only treatment, the exposure time for the “before” period was also 1826 days for all sites. The mean exposure time for the “after” period was 975.8 days with a standard deviation of 274.2 days.

The 15 sites reported a significant 21.7% reduction in Run-off-road Crashes (p-value < 0.001), but there was no significant change in Run-off-road Casualty Crashes (p-value = 0.784). The 15 sites in sample did observe a 9.9% reduction in Run-off-road KSI Crashes, but the reduction did not carry sufficient statistical significance (p-value = 0.483) to infer a similar reduction for locations outside this study if they were to receive the same treatment under similar conditions.

3.1.3 Sites treated with Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing, as well as Audible Edgelines

For the 27 sites treated with “*Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing, with Audible Edgelines*”, the exposure time for the “before” period was also 1826 days for all sites. The mean exposure time for the “after” period was 545.3 days, which was relatively short compared to other sites in the study. The standard deviation of exposure time for the “after” period was 251.2 days.

The 27 sites reported a significant 40.4% reduction in Run-off-road Crashes (p-value = 0.018). The sites in sample did observe a 45.5% reduction in Run-off-road Casualty Crashes and a 45.7% reduction in Run-off-road KSI Crashes, but the reductions did not carry sufficient statistical significance (p-value = 0.057 and p-value = 0.120, respectively) to infer similar reductions for locations outside this study if they were to receive the same treatment

under similar conditions, possibly due to the relatively short “after” exposure available for these sites, even after adjusting for exposure.

3.2 Economic evaluation of the Run-off-road Crash Program

Table 3.2 presents the results of the economic evaluation of the Run-off-road Crash Program in terms of its reduction in run-off-road crashes. The estimated crash cost savings over the expected life of the treatments were \$193.0 million for run-off-road crashes of all severities, all of which were attributable to a reduction in run-off-road casualty crashes and run-off-road KSI crashes. This will result in an overall net cost saving to the community over the expected life of the treated sites of \$100.2 million after subtracting the capital costs of installing treatments and the maintenance and operating costs. The BCR across all treatment sites was estimated to be 2.1, which indicates benefits in the form of cost savings to the community of \$2.10 for each \$1 invested in the program. In particular, sites treated with “*audible edgelines or white lines*” (as the only treatment) had a better rate of return than other sites with a BCR of 3.4, possibly due to the relatively low costs of such treatment. Sites treated with both “*shoulder widening and/or sealing*” and “*audible edgelines*” together had a lower rate of return (BCR = 1.6) than sites treated with only one of the two treatments, possibly due to the relatively short “after” exposure observed for these sites, even after adjusting for exposure.

Table 3.3 shows the effect of varying the assumptions relating to the discount rate and treatment life of projects on the estimated rate of return of the Run-off-road Crash Program. The Program was found to be cost-effective across all variations in assumptions, with lower discount rates and longer treatment lives of projects improving rates of return and vice versa. A discount rate of 3% increased the NPV of the Run-off-road Crash Program to \$124.3 million and the BCR to 2.3. An expected treatment life of 20 years increased the NPV to \$132.4 million and the BCR to 2.4.

Table 3.2 Economic Evaluation of the Run-off-road Crash Program in Relation to Run-off-road Crash Reductions in WA

| | Discount Rate | Treatment Life (years) | Present Value (PV) of Total Costs (\$) | Present Value (PV) of Crash Cost Savings (\$) | Net Present Value (NPV) (\$) | Benefit-cost Ratio (BCR) |
|---|---------------|------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| All Run-off-road Crash Treatments | 5% | 15 | 92,819,693 | 192,998,346 | 100,178,653 | 2.1 |
| Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing (only) | 5% | 15 | 29,030,594 | 88,686,994 | 59,656,400 | 3.1 |
| Audible Edgelines (AEL) or White Lines (only) | 5% | 15 | 6,701,071 | 22,778,123 | 16,077,052 | 3.4 |
| Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing, with AEL | 5% | 15 | 49,651,053 | 81,311,499 | 31,660,446 | 1.6 |
| Other Treatment or Combinations | 5% | 15 | 7,436,976 | 221,730 | -7,215,246 | 0.0 |

Table 3.3 Sensitivity Analysis for the Economic Evaluation of the Run-off-road Crash Program in Relation to Run-off-road Crash Reductions in WA

| | Discount Rate | Treatment Life (years) | Present Value (PV) of Total Costs (\$) | Present Value (PV) of Crash Cost Savings (\$) | Net Present Value (NPV) (\$) | Benefit-cost Ratio (BCR) |
|---|---------------|------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| All Run-off-road Crash Treatments | 3% | 15 | 95,129,529 | 219,426,635 | 124,297,106 | 2.3 |
| | 5% | 15 | 92,819,693 | 192,998,346 | 100,178,653 | 2.1 |
| | 8% | 15 | 90,121,640 | 162,128,209 | 72,006,569 | 1.8 |
| | 5% | 10 | 88,879,852 | 147,920,123 | 59,040,271 | 1.7 |
| | 5% | 15 | 92,819,693 | 192,998,346 | 100,178,653 | 2.1 |
| | 5% | 20 | 95,906,663 | 228,318,313 | 132,411,651 | 2.4 |
| Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing (only) | 3% | 15 | 29,283,487 | 100,831,375 | 71,547,888 | 3.4 |
| | 5% | 15 | 29,030,594 | 88,686,994 | 59,656,400 | 3.1 |
| | 8% | 15 | 28,735,196 | 74,501,485 | 45,766,290 | 2.6 |
| | 5% | 10 | 28,599,238 | 67,972,557 | 39,373,319 | 2.4 |
| | 5% | 15 | 29,030,594 | 88,686,994 | 59,656,400 | 3.1 |
| | 5% | 20 | 29,368,572 | 104,917,297 | 75,548,725 | 3.6 |
| Audible Edgelines (AEL) or White Lines (only) | 3% | 15 | 7,427,298 | 25,897,253 | 18,469,955 | 3.5 |
| | 5% | 15 | 6,701,071 | 22,778,123 | 16,077,052 | 3.4 |
| | 8% | 15 | 5,852,786 | 19,134,756 | 13,281,970 | 3.3 |
| | 5% | 10 | 5,462,360 | 17,457,884 | 11,995,524 | 3.2 |
| | 5% | 15 | 6,701,071 | 22,778,123 | 16,077,052 | 3.4 |
| | 5% | 20 | 7,671,633 | 26,946,670 | 19,275,036 | 3.5 |
| Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing, with AEL | 3% | 15 | 50,912,823 | 92,445,915 | 41,533,092 | 1.8 |
| | 5% | 15 | 49,651,053 | 81,311,499 | 31,660,446 | 1.6 |
| | 8% | 15 | 48,177,215 | 68,305,703 | 20,128,488 | 1.4 |
| | 5% | 10 | 47,498,876 | 62,319,741 | 14,820,865 | 1.3 |
| | 5% | 15 | 49,651,053 | 81,311,499 | 31,660,446 | 1.6 |
| | 5% | 20 | 51,337,340 | 96,192,038 | 44,854,699 | 1.9 |

4 DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study presents the results of the evaluation of the rural Run-off-road Crash Program in WA in terms of its effectiveness in reducing the frequency and severity for run-off-road crashes, as well as the associated costs for sites treated under the 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 budgets (as at 31st March 2016). The analysis found the program to be effective overall in reducing both the frequency and severity of such crashes, with a 35.5% reduction in run-off-road crashes, 18.4% reduction in run-off-road casualty crashes, and a 25.6% reduction in run-off-road KSI crashes, for all sites treated under the program.

A number of decisions were made regarding the analysis. As the treatments under the program were intended to reduce the number of single vehicle run-off-road crashes, the study examined the effects of the treatments on all severity of run-off-road crashes (including PDO), as well as run-off-road casualty crashes only, and run-off-road KSI crashes only.

The evaluation of the program identified “*shoulder widening and/or sealing*” to be highly successful in reducing both the frequency and severity of run-off-road crashes. “*Audible edgelines or white lines*” was also successful in reducing the frequency of such crashes, but appeared to be less successful in reducing the more severe of such crashes when implemented as the only treatment.

Such reductions, at a first glance, appeared to be diminished when the above two treatments were applied together at 27 sites in the study. This is, however, not surprising given the relatively short “after” exposure available for these sites, even after adjusting for exposure, as these were still much less than the recommended three to five years of crash data needed for this type of analysis (Nicholson 1986). Should longer “after” exposure be available then the real effects (either increases or reductions) could become more apparent.

The findings in this study are consistent with previous research. Catchpole (1990) found unsealed shoulders to be a contributing factor in over 50% of fatal run-off-road crashes in New South Wales. Meuleners & Hendrie (2009) found 13 WA sites with a mix of “*shoulder sealing*” and/or “*audible edgelines*” treatments to have observed reductions in run-off-road crashes by 59% and run-off-road casualty crashes by 80%. Zhang et al. (2014), Meuleners et al. (2014) and Chow et al. (2015) also found sites treated with “*shoulder sealing*” or “*edgelines*” in the 2007/08, 2009/10 and 2011/12 WA State Black Spot Programs to have varying degrees of success in reducing all reported crashes and casualty crashes.

The Run-off-road Crash Program also performed well in economic terms. In relation to the net economic worth of the program, the NPV and the BCR across all treatment sites were estimated to be \$100.2 million and 2.1 respectively. Sites treated with “*audible edgelines or white lines*” had a better rate of return than other sites, with a BCR of 3.4, possibly due to the relatively low costs of such treatment. Sites treated with both “*shoulder widening and/or sealing*” and “*audible edgelines*” together had a lower rate of return (BCR = 1.6) than sites treated with only one of the two treatments, again possibly due to the relatively short “after” exposure observed for these sites.

It is recommended that the Run-off-road Crash Program be continued as both its overall effectiveness and cost-effectiveness are apparent. Considering that the positive outcomes from this study were obtained from conservative assumptions and adjustments, the real effects from the program could be better than reported.

It is also recommended that the analysis be repeated after observation of longer “after” exposure for the treated sites, particularly for the 27 sites treated with both “*shoulder widening and/or sealing*” and “*audible edgelines*”.

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APPENDIX A – All Reported Crashes in WA (Metropolitan and Rural), 2002-2015

| Year | Severity 1 Fatal Crashes | Severity 2 Hospitalisation Crashes | Severity 3 Medical Treatment Crashes | Severity 4 + 5 Property Damage Only (Major or Minor) Crashes | Severity 4 PDO (Major) Crashes | Severity 5 PDO (Minor) Crashes | Severity 1 + 2 Killed or Seriously Injured Crashes | Severity 1 + 2 + 3 Casualty Crashes | Severity 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 All Reported Crashes |
|-------------|--------------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| 2002 | 159 | 2208 | 5739 | 28261 | 20522 | 7739 | 2367 | 8106 | 36367 |
| 2003 | 154 | 2230 | 5357 | 28271 | 20425 | 7846 | 2384 | 7741 | 36012 |
| 2004 | 163 | 2485 | 5388 | 29867 | 21966 | 7901 | 2648 | 8036 | 37903 |
| 2005 | 151 | 2385 | 5251 | 31194 | 23821 | 7373 | 2536 | 7787 | 38981 |
| 2006 | 182 | 2122 | 5565 | 31690 | 24925 | 6765 | 2304 | 7869 | 39559 |
| 2007 | 213 | 2190 | 5586 | 33646 | 26857 | 6789 | 2403 | 7989 | 41635 |
| 2008 | 185 | 2280 | 5433 | 31412 | 21728 | 9684 | 2465 | 7898 | 39310 |
| 2009 | 176 | 2007 | 5358 | 29691 | 18108 | 11583 | 2183 | 7541 | 37232 |
| 2010 | 175 | 2032 | 5506 | 31921 | 19962 | 11959 | 2207 | 7713 | 39634 |
| 2011 | 167 | 2006 | 5618 | 31675 | 19836 | 11839 | 2173 | 7791 | 39466 |
| 2012 | 171 | 2017 | 5237 | 31733 | 19944 | 11789 | 2188 | 7425 | 39158 |
| 2013 | 149 | 1945 | 4853 | 29950 | 18642 | 11308 | 2094 | 6947 | 36897 |
| 2014 | 174 | 1465 | 4831 | 28246 | 17986 | 10260 | 1639 | 6470 | 34716 |
| 2015 | 142 | 1219 | 4539 | 26480 | 17335 | 9145 | 1361 | 5900 | 32380 |

APPENDIX C – Reductions in Run-off-road Crashes using Raw Crash Count – Unadjusted for Drop-offs in 2014 and 2015 KSI Crashes

| Treatment | No. of Rural Sites in Sample | Road Length Covered by Sample (km) | Exposure (days) - Before Treatment | Number of Crashes - Before Treatment | | Exposure (days) - After Treatment | | | | Number of Crashes - After Treatment | Incidence Rate | | | p-value (Probability 0 < p < 1) | 95% C.I. of IRR | | Crash Reduction (%) | | |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------|--------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|-------|-------------|
| | | | | Raw Count | Adjusted | Min | Max | Mean | S.D. | | Raw Count | Adjusted | Estimate (β) | | Ratio (IRR) | Std. Err. of IRR | | z | Lower Bound |
| Run-off-road Crashes (Severity 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5) | 57 | 943.9 | 1826 | 441 | | 184 | 1351 | 695.1 | 303.6 | 134 | | -0.510 | 0.601 | 0.039 | -7.84 | < 0.001 | 0.529 | 0.682 | 39.9% |
| All Run-off-road Crash Treatments | 12 | 186.6 | 1826 | 72 | | 433 | 1014 | 728.1 | 223.7 | 11 | | -0.995 | 0.370 | 0.083 | -4.42 | < 0.001 | 0.238 | 0.575 | 63.0% |
| Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing (only) | 15 | 349.9 | 1826 | 237 | | 502 | 1351 | 975.8 | 274.2 | 101 | | -0.296 | 0.743 | 0.042 | -5.24 | < 0.001 | 0.665 | 0.831 | 25.7% |
| Audible Edgelines (AEL) or White Lines (only) | 27 | 364.7 | 1826 | 123 | | 184 | 974 | 545.3 | 251.2 | 21 | | -0.587 | 0.556 | 0.126 | -2.59 | 0.010 | 0.356 | 0.868 | 44.4% |
| Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing, with AEL | 3 | 42.7 | 1826 | 9 | | 425 | 549 | 507.7 | 71.6 | 1 | | -0.883 | 0.414 | 0.298 | -1.23 | 0.220 | 0.101 | 1.696 | 58.6% * |
| Other Treatment or Combinations | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Run-off-road Casualty Crashes (Severity 1 + 2 + 3) | 57 | 943.9 | 1826 | 192 | | 184 | 1351 | 695.1 | 303.6 | 59 | | -0.335 | 0.716 | 0.069 | -3.46 | 0.001 | 0.592 | 0.865 | 28.4% |
| All Run-off-road Crash Treatments | 12 | 186.6 | 1826 | 36 | | 433 | 1014 | 728.1 | 223.7 | 6 | | -0.882 | 0.414 | 0.134 | -2.72 | 0.007 | 0.219 | 0.782 | 58.6% |
| Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing (only) | 15 | 349.9 | 1826 | 85 | | 502 | 1351 | 975.8 | 274.2 | 43 | | -0.089 | 0.914 | 0.088 | -0.93 | 0.351 | 0.758 | 1.103 | 8.6% * |
| Audible Edgelines (AEL) or White Lines (only) | 27 | 364.7 | 1826 | 63 | | 184 | 974 | 545.3 | 251.2 | 9 | | -0.771 | 0.463 | 0.158 | -2.25 | 0.024 | 0.237 | 0.904 | 53.7% |
| Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing, with AEL | 3 | 42.7 | 1826 | 8 | | 425 | 549 | 507.7 | 71.6 | 1 | | -0.730 | 0.482 | 0.355 | -0.99 | 0.321 | 0.114 | 2.041 | 51.8% * |
| Other Treatment or Combinations | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Run-off-road Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) Crashes (Severity 1 + 2) | 57 | 943.9 | 1826 | 115 | | 184 | 1351 | 695.1 | 303.6 | 28 | | -0.552 | 0.576 | 0.093 | -3.42 | 0.001 | 0.420 | 0.790 | 42.4% |
| All Run-off-road Crash Treatments | 12 | 186.6 | 1826 | 21 | | 433 | 1014 | 728.1 | 223.7 | 2 | | -1.424 | 0.241 | 0.159 | -2.15 | 0.031 | 0.066 | 0.880 | 75.9% |
| Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing (only) | 15 | 349.9 | 1826 | 50 | | 502 | 1351 | 975.8 | 274.2 | 20 | | -0.335 | 0.716 | 0.125 | -1.91 | 0.056 | 0.508 | 1.009 | 28.4% * |
| Audible Edgelines (AEL) or White Lines (only) | 27 | 364.7 | 1826 | 39 | | 184 | 974 | 545.3 | 251.2 | 5 | | -0.895 | 0.409 | 0.181 | -2.02 | 0.043 | 0.172 | 0.973 | 59.1% |
| Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing, with AEL | 3 | 42.7 | 1826 | 5 | | 425 | 549 | 507.7 | 71.6 | 1 | | -0.292 | 0.747 | 0.535 | -0.41 | 0.684 | 0.183 | 3.045 | 25.3% * |
| Other Treatment or Combinations | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

APPENDIX D – Reductions in Run-off-road Crashes – Adjusted for Drop-offs in 2014 and 2015 KSI Crashes

| Treatment | No. of Rural Sites in Sample | Road Length Covered by Sample (km) | Exposure (days) - Before Treatment | Number of Crashes - Before Treatment | | Exposure (days) - After Treatment | | | | Number of Crashes - After Treatment | Incidence Rate | | | p-value (Probability 0 < p < 1) | 95% C.I. of IRR | | Crash Reduction (%) | | | |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------|--------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|-------|-------------|-------------|
| | | | | Raw Count | Adjusted | Min | Max | Mean | S.D. | | Raw Count | Adjusted | Estimate (β) | | Ratio (IRR) | Std. Err. of IRR | | z | Lower Bound | Upper Bound |
| Run-off-road Crashes (Severity 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5) | 57 | 943.9 | 1826 | 441 | 441.17 | 184 | 1351 | 695.1 | 303.6 | 134 | 141.93 | | -0.439 | 0.645 | 0.040 | -7.10 | < 0.001 | 0.571 | 0.728 | 35.5% |
| All Run-off-road Crash Treatments | 12 | 186.6 | 1826 | 72 | 72 | 433 | 1014 | 728.1 | 223.7 | 11 | 11.98 | | -0.913 | 0.401 | 0.085 | -4.30 | < 0.001 | 0.265 | 0.608 | 59.9% |
| Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing (only) | 15 | 349.9 | 1826 | 237 | 237 | 502 | 1351 | 975.8 | 274.2 | 101 | 106.09 | | -0.244 | 0.783 | 0.042 | -4.51 | < 0.001 | 0.704 | 0.871 | 21.7% |
| Audible Edgelines (AEL) or White Lines (only) | 27 | 364.7 | 1826 | 123 | 123.17 | 184 | 974 | 545.3 | 251.2 | 21 | 22.59 | | -0.517 | 0.596 | 0.131 | -2.36 | 0.018 | 0.388 | 0.916 | 40.4% |
| Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing, with AEL | 3 | 42.7 | 1826 | 9 | 9 | 425 | 549 | 507.7 | 71.6 | 1 | 1.27 | | -0.663 | 0.515 | 0.323 | -1.06 | 0.290 | 0.151 | 1.758 | 48.5% * |
| Other Treatment or Combinations | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Run-off-road Casualty Crashes (Severity 1 + 2 + 3) | 57 | 943.9 | 1826 | 192 | 192.17 | 184 | 1351 | 695.1 | 303.6 | 59 | 66.93 | | -0.203 | 0.816 | 0.072 | -2.31 | 0.021 | 0.687 | 0.970 | 18.4% |
| All Run-off-road Crash Treatments | 12 | 186.6 | 1826 | 36 | 36 | 433 | 1014 | 728.1 | 223.7 | 6 | 6.98 | | -0.733 | 0.481 | 0.141 | -2.51 | 0.012 | 0.271 | 0.853 | 51.9% |
| Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing (only) | 15 | 349.9 | 1826 | 85 | 85 | 502 | 1351 | 975.8 | 274.2 | 43 | 48.09 | | 0.024 | 1.024 | 0.088 | 0.27 | 0.784 | 0.865 | 1.211 | -2.4% ** |
| Audible Edgelines (AEL) or White Lines (only) | 27 | 364.7 | 1826 | 63 | 63.17 | 184 | 974 | 545.3 | 251.2 | 9 | 10.59 | | -0.606 | 0.545 | 0.174 | -1.91 | 0.057 | 0.292 | 1.018 | 45.5% * |
| Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing, with AEL | 3 | 42.7 | 1826 | 8 | 8 | 425 | 549 | 507.7 | 71.6 | 1 | 1.27 | | -0.504 | 0.604 | 0.380 | -0.80 | 0.423 | 0.176 | 2.072 | 39.6% * |
| Other Treatment or Combinations | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Run-off-road Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) Crashes (Severity 1 + 2) | 57 | 943.9 | 1826 | 115 | 115.17 | 184 | 1351 | 695.1 | 303.6 | 28 | 35.93 | | -0.296 | 0.744 | 0.102 | -2.16 | 0.031 | 0.569 | 0.973 | 25.6% |
| All Run-off-road Crash Treatments | 12 | 186.6 | 1826 | 21 | 21 | 433 | 1014 | 728.1 | 223.7 | 2 | 2.98 | | -1.022 | 0.360 | 0.185 | -1.99 | 0.047 | 0.131 | 0.987 | 64.0% |
| Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing (only) | 15 | 349.9 | 1826 | 50 | 50 | 502 | 1351 | 975.8 | 274.2 | 20 | 25.09 | | -0.104 | 0.901 | 0.134 | -0.70 | 0.483 | 0.673 | 1.206 | 9.9% * |
| Audible Edgelines (AEL) or White Lines (only) | 27 | 364.7 | 1826 | 39 | 39.17 | 184 | 974 | 545.3 | 251.2 | 5 | 6.59 | | -0.611 | 0.543 | 0.213 | -1.56 | 0.120 | 0.252 | 1.172 | 45.7% * |
| Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing, with AEL | 3 | 42.7 | 1826 | 5 | 5 | 425 | 549 | 507.7 | 71.6 | 1 | 1.27 | | -0.059 | 0.943 | 0.587 | -0.09 | 0.925 | 0.279 | 3.192 | 5.7% * |
| Other Treatment or Combinations | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

APPENDIX E – Economic Evaluation of the Run-off-road Crash Program in Relation to Run-off-road Crash Reductions in WA, using Raw Crash Count – Unadjusted for Drop-offs in 2014 and 2015 KSI Crashes

| | Discount Rate | Treatment Life (years) | Present Value (PV) of Total Costs (\$) | Present Value (PV) of Crash Cost Savings (\$) | Net Present Value (NPV) (\$) | Benefit-cost Ratio (BCR) |
|---|---------------|------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| All Run-off-road Crash Treatments | 5% | 15 | 92,819,693 | 212,188,334 | 119,368,640 | 2.3 |
| Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing (only) | 5% | 15 | 29,030,594 | 91,598,283 | 62,567,689 | 3.2 |
| Audible Edgelines (AEL) or White Lines (only) | 5% | 15 | 6,701,071 | 33,049,036 | 26,347,965 | 4.9 |
| Shoulder Widening and/or Sealing, with AEL | 5% | 15 | 49,651,053 | 86,040,046 | 36,388,993 | 1.7 |
| Other Treatment or Combinations | 5% | 20 | 7,529,117 | 1,775,656 | -5,753,462 | 0.2 |

APPENDIX F – Sensitivity Analysis for the Economic Evaluation of the Run-off-road Crash Program in Relation to Run-off-road Crash Reductions in WA, using Raw Crash Count – Unadjusted for Drop-offs in 2014 and 2015 KSI Crashes

| | Discount Rate | Treatment Life (years) | Present Value (PV) of Total Costs (\$) | Present Value (PV) of Crash Cost Savings (\$) | Net Present Value (NPV) (\$) | Benefit-cost Ratio (BCR) |
|--|---------------|------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| All Run-off-road Crash Treatments | 3% | 15 | 95,129,529 | 241,244,410 | 146,114,881 | 2.5 |
| | 5% | 15 | 92,819,693 | 212,188,334 | 119,368,640 | 2.3 |
| | 8% | 15 | 90,121,640 | 178,248,753 | 88,127,113 | 2.0 |
| | 5% | 10 | 88,879,852 | 162,627,945 | 73,748,093 | 1.8 |
| | 5% | 15 | 92,819,693 | 212,188,334 | 119,368,640 | 2.3 |
| | 5% | 20 | 95,906,663 | 251,020,195 | 155,113,532 | 2.6 |
| | 3% | 15 | 29,283,487 | 104,141,322 | 74,857,835 | 3.6 |
| | 5% | 15 | 29,030,594 | 91,598,283 | 62,567,689 | 3.2 |
| | 8% | 15 | 28,735,196 | 76,947,113 | 48,211,917 | 2.7 |
| | 5% | 10 | 28,599,238 | 70,203,862 | 41,604,624 | 2.5 |
| | 5% | 15 | 29,030,594 | 91,598,283 | 62,567,689 | 3.2 |
| | 5% | 20 | 29,368,572 | 108,361,371 | 78,992,799 | 3.7 |
| | 3% | 15 | 7,427,298 | 37,574,616 | 30,147,319 | 5.1 |
| | 5% | 15 | 6,701,071 | 33,049,036 | 26,347,965 | 4.9 |
| | 8% | 15 | 5,852,786 | 27,762,834 | 21,910,048 | 4.7 |
| | 5% | 10 | 5,462,360 | 25,329,841 | 19,867,481 | 4.6 |
| | 5% | 15 | 6,701,071 | 33,049,036 | 26,347,965 | 4.9 |
| | 5% | 20 | 7,671,633 | 39,097,227 | 31,425,594 | 5.1 |
| | 3% | 15 | 50,912,823 | 97,821,967 | 46,909,144 | 1.9 |
| | 5% | 15 | 49,651,053 | 86,040,046 | 36,388,993 | 1.7 |
| | 8% | 15 | 48,177,215 | 72,277,918 | 24,100,703 | 1.5 |
| | 5% | 10 | 47,498,876 | 65,943,851 | 18,444,975 | 1.4 |
| | 5% | 15 | 49,651,053 | 86,040,046 | 36,388,993 | 1.7 |
| | 5% | 20 | 51,337,340 | 101,785,941 | 50,448,601 | 2.0 |