The Evolution of Road Safety Auditing in Western Australia

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In Western Australia the objective of the IPWEA – MRWA Road Safety Panel is to promote a safer road environment for all road users in Western Australia through road safety engineering expertise. The Road Safety Audit Panel has representation from IPWEA WA, Main Roads WA (MRWA), Local Government, WALGA and private industry. The role of the Panel is:

- To promote good road safety practices in Western Australia through increased knowledge, awareness and cooperation between all stakeholders

- To promote a coordinated approach highlighting best practice to road safety auditing between the stakeholders.

- To promote standardised road safety audit procedures based on the Austroads Road Safety Audit Guidelines.

- To provide road safety auditor training required in Western Australia to become an accredited road safety auditor and CPD Update training required to maintain road safety auditor accreditation.

- To set and review guidelines for the accreditation of Road Safety Auditors and Senior Road Safety Auditors in Western Australia.

- For IPWEA WA to maintain a database made up of an up-to-date register of accredited Road Safety Auditors, Senior Road Safety Auditors, and all Road Safety Audits.

- To provide ongoing professional development opportunities and promote the sharing of knowledge and experiences between road safety practitioners by creating avenues to meet, network and learn from each other's experiences and knowledge in the field of road safety, and

- To provide an avenue for complaints to be addressed in accordance with the Complaints and Disciplinary Action Procedures

As road safety auditing has advanced over the years the Panel has had to adapt its programmes to ensure relevancy, best practice and to move with the quick pace of changing technology. This presentation will take you on the journey of how road safety auditing has evolved in Western Australia.

The Road Safety panel has always presented a comprehensive best practice course on Road Safety Auditing. Previously the course was face to face held once or twice a year. One course was also held in a regional area of Western Australia every year. The logistics of organising the country course was difficult and it was felt not enough regions were reached.

In the past once you were accredited as a Senior Auditor there was no Continuous Professional Development required or a minimum number of audits to be completed to continue your accreditation.

Although our course and accreditation system was highly regarded issues started to be raised such as:

- There were not enough courses being held to meet demand
- Courses were labour intensive requiring a number of experienced presenters
- Safe System Principles were not being reflected in audits
- Road safety audits not automatically included in the scope of a road project.
- There were concerns/complaints over the standard of audit reports being produced by accredited auditors
- Lack of understanding of why road safety audits are needed in development
- Projects were being constructed that introduced further road safety issues instead of solving them.

To address these issues the Road Safety panel has implemented improvements such as:

- The Road Safety Audit Portal
- Online Road Safety Audit training
- Tightening of accreditation requirements
- The introduction of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) requirements to maintain accreditation
- The production of an online Road Safety Engineering Course
- Creation of Road Safety Audit report and brief templates
- Inclusion of Safe System principles
- The development and promotion of stronger Road Safety Audit Policies in Government Agencies

Many lessons have been learned along the way. Although the implementation of these changes has presented its fair share of challenges it has also achieved very positive results.

References: https://www.road-safety-audit-wa.org/