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Clearer priorities needed to ensure Road Trauma Trust Account spent effectively on improving road safety and reducing road trauma

The Auditor General's report, *Management of the Road Trauma Trust Account*, tabled in Parliament today.

The audit examined if the Road Safety Council and the Road Safety Commission effectively administer the Road Trauma Trust Account (RTTA) to improve road safety and reduce road trauma.

Auditor General Ms Caroline Spencer said the Council and Commission are not effectively administering the RTTA and while some probity measures have improved since our 2012 report on the RTTA, the road toll has not.

Better controls are needed to ensure the nearly \$100 million raised from red light camera and speeding fines and released from the RTTA each year complies with the *Road Safety Council Act 2002*.

'For example, concerningly, the Commission has not confirmed or obtained appropriate records of the Minister's final sign-off before releasing RTTA funds.

'It is imperative the Commission acts to address this finding and meet the legislative requirement for ministerial approval.

'The Council also needs a systematic approach to recommending and evaluating projects for RTTA monies to be effective in improving road safety and reducing the road toll.

'The Council and Commission have not established clear priorities to guide the best use of RTTA funds, despite a lack of planning for funding recommendations being raised in our 2012 report.

'Improving how it identifies and assesses projects to fund and then monitoring their impact will allow funding recommendations to the Minister to be better aligned and targeted to clear priorities and give the public confidence RTTA funds are effectively used.

'I am pleased the Council and Commission have already begun work to address some of the issues we have identified.

'Our audit has come at a time of change and opportunity for road safety in Western Australia with the potential increase in RTTA funding from implementation of new point to point camera technologies.

'However, three years into the strategy it is clear there is still a long way to go to reach the ambitious targets to reduce lives lost or seriously injured on WA roads by 2030,' Ms Spencer said.

Report resources

- PDF version
- summary video