

Joint Select Committee on Road Safety – 20 August 2020

Question taken on notice

Hansard Extract:

CHAIR: Thanks, Mr Cameron. I appreciate your submission. I'm just looking at your report. In your state, Western Australia, the Black Spot Program treated 227 rural sites. Are you able to tell me what the effectiveness of the treatments was, and what they were as well?

Mr Cameron: I might ask my colleague, Doug Morgan. We do have some notes on that.

Mr Morgan: To answer the question in detail I'd have to take it on notice. The black spot, overall, has BCRs around two; however, because of the challenges, often in the rural areas, we have slightly different criteria to allow those projects to get up and running. The BCR, across all treatments, was 4.7, but, if you're specifically after the rural ones, I'd have to take that on notice.

Answer:

In 2018, the Curtin Monash Accident Research Centre conducted a study of 227 sites in rural areas treated under the State Black Spot Program between 2000 and 2014. There was strong evidence that these treatments have been effective overall, reducing all reported crash frequency by 30.8 per cent, casualty crash frequency by 45.6 per cent, and Killed or Seriously Injured crash frequency by 44.7 per cent.

Intersection treatments included the installation of roundabouts, remodelling traffic signals, constructing traffic median islands on approaches, and reducing masking through installing protected left turning lanes. These treatments were all highly effective in reducing crashes, with each having significant reductions in all reported crashes, casualty crashes, as well as crashes resulting in death or serious injury. In terms of mid-block treatments, sealing to a width greater than or equal to 5.5 metres, installing advisory speed signs on curves, installing edgelines, and reconstructing superelevation on curves were also highly effective in reducing crashes, with each treatment having significant reductions in all reported crashes, casualty crashes, as well as crashes resulting in death or serious injury.

Expressed as a benefit cost ratio (BCR), the net economic worth of the State Black Spot Program across all treatment sites was 4.7. Sites treated in rural areas had a better rate of return than those in the metropolitan area, with a BCR of 7.4 compared with 3.3 in the metropolitan area.