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Utilising Local Government to deliver State Government funded cycling infrastructure using a Variable Grant Mechanism

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Abstract

The Perth Bicycle Network (PBN) is a comprehensive network of bicycle routes throughout the Perth metropolitan area, with Principal Shared Paths (PSPs) forming the backbone by providing path users with direct, high-quality and safe links to many destinations.

Bikewest traditionally uses Main Roads WA to deliver the PSP network. The work is usually put out to tender and delivered by the successful contractor. However, an alternative method of delivery was sought after Bikewest received a cost estimate for works that was far in excess of available the budget.

Traditionally, the delivery of infrastructure by local government for state government is achieved by way of a grant, based on a cost estimate, with no mechanisms for adjustment if the actual cost exceeds the original estimate.

However, in this case the local government was not prepared to take a financial risk to deliver what was recognised as a state government project. As a consequence Bikewest and the City of Bayswater developed a variable grant concept which delivers projects at actual cost with no financial risks to the grantee.

The new PSP section was constructed for less than a fifth of the original estimate, has filled a gap in the PSP network and benefits the local community by providing a safe cycling route from Tonkin Highway to the Perth CBD.