

This communique highlights key discussions and considerations from the Road Safety Council (Council) meeting held Friday 16 June 2023. The meeting's focus was speed management and budgetary considerations ahead of the mid-year budget review scheduled for 15 September 2023.

Chair's Report

Council noted events held during National Road Safety Week, including the Chair's first stakeholder forum for the heavy vehicle industry, and highlighted the success of the Road Safety Commission's Total Solar Eclipse road safety campaign. Department of Transport will provide the Chair with a briefing on the work Main Roads has undertaken on rest areas for heavy vehicles.

Evaluation of Road Trauma Trust Account-Funded Programs

The Council agreed to progress scoping and developing evaluations for three programs that have fulfilled the evaluation criteria: Road Trauma Support Services, P.A.R.T.Y. program and Impaired Driving and Detections (Alcohol and Drug). Evaluation of the projects will be linked to the Outcomes Framework presented to Council on 10 March 2023. Further evaluations will follow as other programs progress and meet the criteria.

Budget matters

Council noted the outcome of the 2023-24 State Budget in relation to the Road Trauma Trust Account (RTTA). Council was also briefed on what is expected for the Mid-year Review process which the Council will consider in September 2023. The Road Safety Commission will provide to Council an updated RTTA budget reflecting the outcome of the 2023-24 State Budget.

Early Indicators from the Regional Road Safety Program

Department of Transport delivered a presentation on *Early Indicators from the Regional Road Safety Program*. The program is treating high speed rural roads with sealed shoulders, wider centre lines and audible edge lines in an effort to reduce run-off road crashes. To date, 4,800kms of the total 7,500km of road has been treated resulting in a 50% reduction in fatalities and a 35% reduction in serious injuries. Council noted the RTTA was essential in providing the establishment funding for the Regional Road Safety Program, which was leveraged by the State and Federal Government.

Speed Management and Enforcement

Main Roads delivered a presentation on *Default Maximum Speed Limit Reduction Benefits* which gave background into WA's road network, speed zoning, and the potential impact of reducing the default speed on open roads to 100km per hour. Analysis shows it is possible to save 827 people from harmful crashes by 2030 while minimally impacting drivers and travel times. Council endorsed Main Roads, in collaboration with the Council agencies, to facilitate the development of a Safe Speed Management Strategy for WA.

WA Police presented an *Overview of WA Police Traffic Enforcement Model and Capabilities* which described the policing units involved in traffic and road safety matters, locations, staff levels and main duties, including RTTA-funded operations. It was noted that enforcement targeted at Category A offences is proving most impactful to road safety, and WA Police have exceeded their KPI for this financial year.

The Chair will schedule a meeting with the Minister for Road Safety, Hon. David Michael MLA, the Minister for Transport, Hon. Rita Saffioti MLA, Main Roads and the Road Safety Commissioner on the *Safe Speed Management* presentation.

Electric Scooter Issues

Council noted the increase in use of eScooters that do not fit within the current regulatory frameworks for either eRideables or vehicles. These are devices that weigh over 25kg and are capable of speeds higher than 25km per hour. Council discussed the challenges to restricting access to these devices, providing a safe space for their use, and resolved that members for the responsible agencies would meet further to review behavioural data and consider views on a national approach to the issue.

Total Solar Eclipse Report

Council noted the successful outcome of the Total Solar Eclipse road safety campaign that was funded by the RTTA. The campaign included *Welcome to Country Roads* media commercials in collaboration with Aboriginal Elders across the host region, 30 Centurion road train trailers wrapped with road safety messages and free coffee for drivers at participating road houses along the route from Perth to Exmouth. There were no deaths or serious injuries recorded for the event.

Next meeting: 15 September 2023

Katie Hodson-Thomas JP
Road Safety Council Chair