

Safe System News

TOWARDS ZERO



getting there together

Creating safe roads and roadsides for motorcyclists

Motorcycle and scooter use in Western Australia has been steadily growing in recent years, with the number of registered motorcycles in the state increasing by 26,000 between 1998 and 2007. The number of motorcycle rider casualties in WA is also rising, from 247 recorded in 2001, to 380 in 2007.

As outlined in the safe system approach, a combination of factors are usually at play in any crash. These include the behaviour of the drivers of the vehicles, the riders themselves, speed choice and other factors such as the influence of fatigue, alcohol or drugs. Vehicle factors include the presence of absence of active and passive safety features that can

assist in averting a collision or protecting the rider in the event of a crash.

The engineering of the road surface and the environment also contribute, having an impact on both the possibility of avoiding a crash and on the severity of injury to a motorcyclist.

In August 2009 the Motorcycle and Scooter Safety Action Group and its stakeholders endorsed a set of key actions designed to address the increasing trend in motorcycle and scooter involvement in serious crashes in WA.

These actions are based on safe system principles, which take into account the vulnerability of road users to create a road system that

is inherently safe and forgiving of human error.

As a result, WALGA in collaboration with Main Roads WA are adapting a VicRoads publication to produce a motorcycle friendly maintenance guide for Western Australian practitioners. The guide aims to improve road design, construction and maintenance practices and encourages Local Government engineers and technical staff to consider specific hazards for motorcyclists that can be avoided.

For further information on this publication please contact Jenna Andrews, Road Safety Project Officer on phone 9213 2070 or via email jandrews@walga.asn.au.



Towards Zero is a long term aspiration which does not accept road trauma as a fact of life. It aims to design and build a road transport system that, in the longer-term, will protect road users and prevent crashes that result in death and serious injury.

Towards Zero does not ignore risk taking, but acknowledges that we need to do more to cater for when people simply make mistakes on our roads.

To aspire towards zero means applying a safe system approach - a holistic view which seeks to manage the interaction between road users, the road, travel speed and the vehicle.

Source: *Towards Zero, Road Safety Strategy for WA 2008-2020*



Safe system workshops update

Safe system workshops for Local Government have been held in the Perth metropolitan area and the Great Southern region during the last two months, with very positive feedback from participants.

Representatives from twenty Local Governments have taken part in the workshops held to date, which are the first in a series that will be held in all regions.

Local Government staff and Elected Members who have attended the workshops have learnt more about *Towards Zero* and the role of Local Government in creating a safe system. Participants had the opportunity to discuss some of the issues they encounter when working towards the goal of a safe road transport system.

Participants discussed a range of issues, including the limitations of funding and resources to implement a safe system approach; the need for better planning and coordination; and for road safety to be recognised as a shared responsibility.

Local Governments identified that they have capacity to work with staff and Elected Members to increase safe system knowledge and understanding; improve coordination between

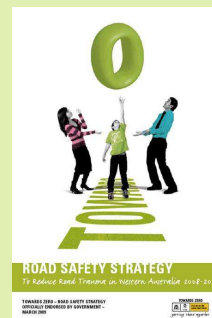
internal business units; and improve data collection and analysis to assist in setting priorities.

All participants have found the workshops increased their understanding of *Towards Zero* and the safe system approach to road safety.

Participating Local Governments will receive a summary report from their workshop in the near future. The information collected in the workshops will assist the Local Government Safe System Project in determining the level of support that Local Governments need in implementing the safe system approach.



Back: Cr Ken Richardson-Newton, Sharon Bracknell and Rob Whooley (Shire of Denmark). Front: Kendra Green & Andrea Smithson (WALGA RoadWise).



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Geraldton
16 September 2010
(for Regional Road Group delegates)

Donnybrook
23 September 2010

For more information or to reserve your place, contact the LGSSP team on the details below.

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