

SPRING TALKS 2017 –

“THE QPRC TALK”

ROAD SAFETY



Queabeyan-Palerang Regional Council Mayor, Tim Overall, was the guest speaker at the Wamboin Community Association's (WCA's) third and final Spring Talk – 2017 at the Wamboin Community Hall on Tuesday 21 November. In a break from the traditional "presentation and Q&A" format, WCA President, Peter Evans, asked the Mayor a series of questions which are published on the WCA website <<http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/>>. The Mayor provided the following information in a handout in response to questions about Road Safety.

Road Safety

Q) Does Council have Road Safety Officers/Co-ordinators as do other Councils? If so, what are their roles and activities, what have they achieved and what goals do they aim to achieve over the next three years?

Q) Is there a Road Safety Committee and, if so, what is its composition, what does it do, and what outcomes has it achieved to date?

"Yes – QPRC participates in the Local Government Road Safety Program (LGRSP) and under this program employs a Road Safety Officer. The Road Safety Officer works with stakeholders in the community to improve road safety outcomes for our local roads with main aim of reducing road trauma in our community.

The Road Safety Officer is responsible for:

- Developing and implementing Council's Road Safety Action Plan – which involves analysis of road crash statistics, evaluation of road issues, feedback of safety concerns from stakeholders and community and working with State and Regional government stakeholders on road safety strategies.
- Develops and implements Road Safety Projects in the community – applies for yearly funding to run local road safety projects stemming from Road Safety Action Plan addressing local road safety issues. Projects are run on issues from speed, drink drive, young drivers, older drivers, fatigue, Kings Highway, school zones and motorcycle safety.
- Working with stakeholders in the community on road safety issues including NSW Police, RMS, local schools, bus operators, health professionals, community groups and businesses
- Investigating road safety issues and coordinating proposals through Local Traffic Committee. RSO sits on traffic committee and works with NSW Police and RMS on regulatory road changes and events.
- Applying for funding for road safety projects, blackspot funding applications and safety around schools funding
- Works with Engineers, Designers and Traffic officers to include road safety into designs and traffic plans

The Road Safety Officer just finished the three year Road Safety Action Plan covering 2014-2017. This plan saw the implementation of a number of new projects to address local issues including:

- **Local Speed Zone Project** which involved securing a Speed Trailer for deployment on local roads to provide courtesy speed checks and education about local speeds. The

trailer has been deployed for 18 months now to 16 sites resulting in a reduction in speeds from 2-10km/h at deployed sites. The project is coordinated with community education and police enforcement

- **Free Workshops for Parents Teaching Learner Drivers** – 5 free workshops conducted with local high schools providing practical advice for parents teaching learner drivers on rules, regulations and tips for supervising a learner.
- **Motorcyclist Safety** – the first motorcycle awareness campaign was run with Council teaming with local rider training facility to raise awareness of motorcycle safety with other motorists
- **Pedestrian Safety** – new pedestrian crossing facilities were implemented at schools and bus interchange and coordinated with pedestrian safety campaigns that saw 40 priority pedestrian locations in CBD targeted for on-site safety messages particularly concerned with pedestrian distraction
- **Older Driver Workshops** – 6 workshops were conducted at local community groups providing information and safety advice on road issues for older road users – including older driver licencing, mobility safety and pedestrian safety
- **Drink Driving Projects**– breath testing trailer attended 4 local events providing courtesy breath testing and drink drive educational messages. Plan B education deployed for the events and RSO attends liquor licencing accord meeting to coordinate plan b messaging
- **Fatigue Project** – first fatigue campaign conducted in coordination with Braidwood Driver Reviver involving the distribution of free coffee mugs encouraging drivers to take a break on Kings Highway
- **Kings Highway** – a new Kings Highway campaign implemented with the Kings Highway Partnership in 2016/2017 including funding obtained from ACT/NRMA Trust
- **School Zones** – promotion of safety in school zones including deployment of speed zone banners, rules on parking in school zones and kindergarten orientation packs distributed to all schools in council area. Significant engineering changes have been implemented in school zones with education
- **Community Education** – community education campaigns conducted on Road Rules Awareness, Bus Safety, Mobile Phone usage, Fatality Free Friday, Child Restraints, Changes in Road Rules, Cycling Safety
- **Bike Week** – bike week event conducted to promote new lock up storage facility at Bus Interchange

A new three year action plan has been created for 2017-2020. It will see projects continuing with expansion out into regional areas including.

- **Speed Trailer** – investigation of speed trailer deployment to roads with 80-100km/h speed limit. Identification of speed crash clusters and work with engineers/designers to identify engineering modifications to mitigate for speed crashes. Trailer recently deployed to Macs Reef Road, Wilson St in Braidwood and shortly in Ellendon Street in Bungendore.
- **Motorcycle Safety** – continued collaboration and expansion of the Motorcycle awareness safety campaign. Just expanded to Braidwood in October 2017
- **Free Workshop** – workshops expanded into Braidwood – a workshop was run in Braidwood in September 2017. Will continue to offer 3 workshops a year working with each of three High Schools in the council area (each high school will be offered ability to host 1 workshop a year)
- **Pedestrian Safety** – investigation and work with RMS on proposal for 40km/h pedestrian areas for Queanbeyan CBD

- **Older Driver Workshops** – workshops offered to relevant community groups – first workshop in Bungendore planned for February 2018 with CWA. Attended BANG meeting in August to promote the workshop with local community service providers
- **Drink Drive Project** – ran our first alternate transport promotion (offering subsidized taxi vouchers) to a significant community event in October 2017 (Oktoberfest). Breath testing trailer coordinated for 3 community events a year – one in Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Braidwood.
- **Fatigue Project** – will continue to coordinate with Driver Reviver in 2017/2018 at Braidwood
- **Kings Highway** – project will continue to run and be expanded in 2017/2018 to encompass in-venue and petrol pump advertising in ACT, Queanbeyan and Batemans Bay.
- **School Zones** – this project is being expanded to schools in Bungendore and Braidwood and continued partnerships and strategies in Queanbeyan
- **Bus Interchange** - \$50,000 grant obtained for pedestrian safety upgrades at Queanbeyan Bus Interchange to be implemented in Jan/Feb 2018
- **Continued work on Black Spot Funding, School Zone and School Safety funding, Local Traffic Committee**

Council does not have a Road Safety Committee. The LGRSP used to provide funding to facilitate a Road Safety Committee but has withdrawn this funding option. However, Council's Road Safety Officer is more than happy for road safety issues to be lodged through Council's customer service or should you wish to speak with road safety officer about an issue please contact directly on 6285 6196.