

MOTORCYCLE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.
SAFETY OFFICER REPORT NOVEMBER 2024

I attended the WA Premiers Road Safety Roundtable on 2nd September 2024

It was very encouraging that all the Ministers stayed at the table for the full meeting, and do not just swan in as happens on most occasions. They Ministers kept a low profile during the invited speakers' presentations and listed the main points up on white boards whilst the chiefs of staff made notes of the input from the varied groups.

We will now wait and see if any of the suggestions for a safer outcome put forward are acted on.

Below are my presentation notes that I used at the meeting.

DATA

All agree that we need in depth reliable data on the causal factors of road crashes, however, we believe that quality data can only be achieved through a no blame enhanced crash investigation, so that we don't just look at how the crash happened but why it happened.

We may know how the crash happened e.g., crossed onto the wrong side of the road, and impacted with a tree, but we need to look at why did the vehicle cross to the wrong side of the road. Was it a lack of skill, distraction, road surface, mechanical issue, health problem, animal, or other issues.

We believe that we need an enhanced crash investigation team that includes a specialist road safety auditor, road engineer, mechanical engineer, and a professional specialist road user such as a motorcycle rider, cyclist, truck driver etc.

IMPROVED LEARNER REQUIREMENTS.

We would like to see a compulsory pre learner training course introduced.

Not to teach the road rules, but to focus on the issues that are contributing to our road toll, such as risk management, hazard perception, alcohol/drugs, speed, distraction, peer influence, protective clothing, observation, road positioning, these are all items of Road Craft. We believe that such a course needs to be tailored to the different road users, and to drink and drug offenders.

TRAINERS

We strongly support learner trainers being of the highest standard and believe that any trainer teaching a person to ride, or drive should at a minimum have achieved a cert 4 in rider/driver training, and that they should also be assessed on a regular basis by the Department of Transport. All rider /driver learner should always have a minimum of hours with a professional trainer, and not just rely on their mates for good and safe advice.

INFRASTRUCTURE

We would like to see an investment in upgrading motorcyclist preferred Local Government roads to a minimum of AusRap 3-star rating, as a commitment in W.A and part of the current Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan. We are happy to work with MRD to extend the list of motorcyclists favoured roads, that we have furnished to them in the past.

We also support the metropolitan intersection upgrade to improve the sight lines of approaching vehicles, as motorcycles are often impacted at the current high risk designs due to vehicles not seeing riders.

SAFETY PROMOTION.

We would like to see much more effective safety messaging on tv, radio, social media and on our highway VMS boards.

Any motorcycle safety campaigns need input from motorcycle riders, through organisations such as ours, these promotions will always be most effective if the motorcycle riding community can be involved.

We know what the issues are and can help in getting any message to road user. Messaging works best when it is motorcyclists talking to motorcyclists.

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING.

The protective motorcycle clothing work developed in Australia by MotoCap and funded by the W.A. Government, is in our opinion the best system to rate protective clothing in the world, the downside of this is that it is very badly promoted, to the extent the most motorcycle dealers that I have spoken to have no idea about it.

These are the people who riders ask for advice on the best jacket, gloves, pants etc.

So, we would like to see more promotion investment in MotoCap in WA to help reduce the incidents of serious injuries and hospital stays to motorcycle riders through soft tissue damage.

ONGOING ACTIONS

It is encouraging that we have had some announcements from the Government of a couple of our suggestions.

One being the Government will commission a comprehensive review into the existing learner and provisional driver licensing schemes, as well as skills and training requirements for motorcycle and heavy vehicle licences.

The review will consider the latest research and best practice experience from other Australian jurisdictions, including the use of improved hazard perception training, additional safe driving courses, instructor training and accreditation, penalties and first aid courses.

It will also examine the feasibility of a more comprehensive approach to skills-based graduation through the range of licence categories for motorcycles and heavy vehicles.

Additionally, the WA Government has announced funding of \$32.5 million on regional roads, \$20 million on safety treatments on key regional roads, and \$1.8 million on improved traffic data gathering.

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP

I attended the Motorcycle Safety Advisory Group, as both Ulysses Club and MCWA representative. bimonthly meeting on 5th September 2024

ADGENDA

1. Motorcycles in Bus Lanes. (awaiting the Ministers response)
2. AAA Data Saves Lives campaign.
3. Including MCWA to be an active participant in the formulation of road strategy initiatives.
4. Driver/Rider Education.
5. Rider Trainer qualifications. (awaiting Ministers response)
6. Motorcycle Safety Week. (York Motorcycle Festival and Jo Rider)

1. Riding outside of license class.
2. MotoCap Star rating tags on safety clothing.
3. Greater access to Road Statistics.
4. Crash Investigation
5. Making motorcycle favoured routes safer, as the Main Road WA commitment to the Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan

I have been invited to review the Road Safety Commission recently updated motorcycle pages on our website (using information from DoT's Ride Safe Handbook). If you notice anything that is incorrect or have any suggestions for additional information, could you please let me know? The website is: <https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/road-safety-commission/motorcyclists>

The Road Safety Commission grants programme end in mid-October, and I intend to apply for two grants for our Motorcycle Safety Week, one for the Motorcycle Council of WA for resources and attendance at the 2025 York Motorcycle Festival. The second grant is for a Ulysses Club event during Motorcycle Safety Week to run a Jo Rider event.

GRANTS

I have applied for two separate grants from the Road Safety Commission Smarty Grants Programme

The first is in the name of MCWA for attendance at the April 2025 York Motorcycle Festival and the start of the 2025 Motorcycle Awareness Week. For a total of \$3,750, being York registration \$850, resources \$2,000, catering \$600, banner \$200. I eagerly await approval from the RSC.

The second grant is in the name of the Ulysses Club to run a Jo Rider campaign during Motorcycle Safety week for a total of \$4,800.

Following reports at the last MCWA meeting of a road infrastructure change on Shepperton Road in Victoria Park, and a site visit, I contacted the MRDWA raising my concerns about motorcycle safety.

Below is the email response.

Hi Dave

It is my understanding that it's a temporary measure that is related to reducing congestion due to the railway closure and associated works going on as part of Metronet. I believe it will be removed once the rail works are complete.

And my reply, Hi David

Thank you for your prompt response to me email.

I look forward to this dangerous addition being removed, and hope that we don't have any motorcycle incidents before then.

One point is, that at night it is very difficult to see that it is a concrete barrier, and not the centre line, perhaps some type of upstand on top of the barrier would help.

BUNNING SAUSAGE SIZZLE FUNDRAISER

I have contacted the Bunning coordinator for these events, requesting a date to hold our fundraiser. I am now waiting for a response. I may have to chase them up once more. I will keep you posted.

Dave Wright

MCWA Safety Officer.

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