



## Chairman's Report 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### Welcome

At the January Delegates meeting, Simon D. queried why the MCWA has not been keeping a close eye on motorcycle fatalities. This was a fair comment and as there have been too many motorcycle accidents occurring so far this year, I have included some statistics that are available to us. It is also difficult to comment on the cause of an accident without knowing the details or the results of any investigation.

The following table is the number of **motorcycle fatalities by state during January 2026:**

STATE	FATALITES	Male	Female	Registered Motorcycles
A.C.T.	0	0	0	13,605
Vic.	1	1	0	208,483
N.T.	1	1	0	5,552
Tas.	2	2	0	21,033
S.A.	4	4	0	61,643
Qld.	5	5	0	237,014
N.S.W.	6	6	0	287,809
W.A.	8	7	1	128,202
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1</b>	

The data source(s) used to compile the above information will be included with the meeting Data. I will reiterate that the data above only includes January 2026. As of this writing, there have been ten motorcycle fatalities in 2026. Moral to the story: **Ride like your life depends on it.**

### Activities

- **Road Safety Commission**

The Road Safety Commission has requested that the MCWA review and comment on a series of twenty proposed Motorcycle Safety posts.

- **Western Australian Local Government Association**

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of February, Dave W. and I had an introductory meeting with the new WALGA Manager of Road Safety, Suzanne Butler. Some items discussed were as follows:

1. Progress of the "Making Roads Motorcycle Friendly" engineers handbook which seems to have stalled. We have requested a timeline for completion.
2. The Dardanup Shire Council progress on updating Henty Road Fergusson Valley, which had seen eight accidents on the same corner. The reply is as follows:

We have asked the Road Safety Advisor for the Southwest (Katherine Celenza) for an update, and she has provided the below:

*"The Shire was successful in Australian Black Spot Funding to widen seal at 4 substandard curves, install pavement markings, delineation and signage. Works were out for tender (September 2025)*

*The Shire was success in securing funding from the Local Government Rural Road Safety Program to upgrade the length of Henty Road to widen the seal to add a 500mm sealed shoulder to both sides, reinstate centre lines add audible edge lines to the whole length (11.6km). Works were out for tender (September 2025)*

*Council is investigating options for reviewing the speed limit on Henty Road.*



Here's an update from the Shire in the January Council meeting outcomes - [News Story - January Council meeting outcomes » Shire of Dardanup](#)

## **Henty Road widening tender awarded**

Following a competitive public tender process, Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd has been selected to deliver the Henty Road Widening Project. Works will include widening to a 7.2-metre seal, shoulder sealing, and the installation of audible edge and centre lines to enhance safety. The project is fully funded through the Australian Black Spot Program State and Federal road safety programs and is expected to commence shortly, with delivery targeted before mid-2026, depending on contractor availability”.

## Upcoming Events

- **Motorcycle Safety Advisory Group**

The next meeting will be on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> of February. The MCWA has received the agenda for the meeting tomorrow. The Insurance Commission of Western Australia has been invited to this meeting to discuss their policy on catastrophic injury definitions and what can be done to relax the requirements. The Meeting notes and the Action list from the previous meeting will be attached.

- **York Motorcycle Festival**

The fee for the YMF on Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup> has been paid to the event organisers. We currently have four volunteers to pick up the equipment, transport to York, setup, man the stalls and then return the equipment to the sea container. One person will be required to continue the organising of the event while I am interstate. The list of requirements from last year will be forwarded to the organiser as a starting point.

- **First Responder First Aid Training**

The RSC have confirmed that the MCWA will receive a \$2,000 grant for the first aid training. This value is only 40% of what we requested so we will be determining to provide a \$50 subsidy for 40 people or a \$40 subsidy for 50 people. We need to determine which is the preferred so we can start to advertise the training.

## General News

- **Banking Officers**

I will be organising a day when we can get everyone to attend to sign on as signatories..

- **Chairman's Absence during March**

I will be holidaying in Tasmania from the 2<sup>nd</sup> March to the 23<sup>rd</sup> and not thinking about much from W.A. My wife and I have rented a motor home for 18 days to allow us to explore as much as possible and have the ability to stop anywhere overnight. I am looking forward to the trip.

Stay Safe

**Jeff Thomas**

**Chairman**