

**Submission  
No 28**

## **REDUCING TRAUMA ON LOCAL ROADS IN NSW**

**Organisation:** Wingecarribee Shire Council

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Our Ref: 7410

Contact: [REDACTED]

28 February 2020

The Hon Lou Amato, MLC  
Chair of the Staysafe Committee  
Parliament of New South Wales  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney, NSW 2000

Dear Mr Amato,

### Reducing trauma on local roads

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the committee's inquiry into reducing trauma on local roads. This submission discusses the issues below.

1. The effectiveness of existing road safety planning requirements
2. Opportunities for improving road safety planning and management on local roads
3. The role of local communities and their representatives in identifying and delivering road safety initiatives to reduce trauma on local roads

#### 1. The effectiveness of existing road safety planning requirements

Council is responsible for the planning, control and maintenance of local roads in the Shire. With limited funding and team members, it is important to plan road safety effectively.

Traditionally the role of road safety was confined to road engineering but now the focus has moved to finding the optimal balance between behavioural and engineering solutions, and therefore, education and enforcement also play a significant role in improving road safety in collaboration with our Road Safety Officer (RSO). The effectiveness of these requirements is achieved by:

- **Adopting the 'Safe System Approach'**: Council is developing a Wingecarribee Shire Council Road Safety Plan to create awareness regarding road safety, improving behavioural patterns amongst Council's community road users. The Safe System Approach is undertaken through the development of the plan.
- **Data collection**: Transport for NSW (TfNSW) publishes an annual statistical statement on road crashes and casualty incidence and provides quarterly updates to each Council on the crashes that have occurred within the local government areas (LGA). Police are able to provide information that will enhance awareness of the road safety risks in an area such as data on the number of road safety-related offences across all categories.

A range of data sources is also available from within the Council such as Traffic Committee, traffic counts and studies, Council crash and insurance claim records, and community complaints. The Australian Bureau of Statistics census reports can assist in identifying target groups for the road safety plan. The data resources obtained by Council are currently effective and efficient in developing road safety programs.

- **Data selection and analysis:** Taking a systematic approach, a logical progression and reason for each item of data and thinking in terms of how information will be used can help select what is most relevant and useful data. Analysing the selected relevant crash data can identify road safety issues and the data trends to provide the perspective on incidence and priorities. This process of data selection and analysis is effectively applied to assessing road safety issues in the Shire, developing a road safety plan and to assist in external funding applications such as Black Spot Program.
- **Consultation:** A combination of collaborative and consultative processes amongst key community stakeholders is paramount to highlighting community need and adopting practical strategies to achieve outcomes. Consultations provide an opportunity for key stakeholders to express their perspectives on road safety issues and projects, and to clarify their understanding and expectations of road safety programs. Through consultations, Council can identify the key road safety issues, gain community support and generate practical solutions to address the issues to improve road safety.

Collaboration and consultation remain an effective innovative and evolving strategy underpinning the ethos of community capacity building as a process of working in, with, and for communities so to empower residents to actively participate in the consultation process. Examples include implementing current projects targeting a risk groups including pedestrians, 65+, younger driver, heavy vehicle users, school zones, mobile speed signs.

- **Road Safety Auditor:** Road Safety Audits are a pro-active approach to road safety and require being conducted by qualified road safety auditors. Council supports staff to obtain qualification of road safety auditor. Road safety audits now can be conducted by staff, who are qualified road safety auditors, to identify road safety deficiencies and areas of risk that could lead to road crashes either in the pre-construction phase, in the construction phase, or in the post-construction phase of the road life cycle. Qualified road safety auditors can assist in the development of road safety plan by providing their experience and knowledge in road design, traffic/transport management, road user behaviours, road safety engineering or another closely related road safety discipline. By having in house qualified road safety auditors, Council can potentially share the qualified staff with other road authorities to improve road safety in adjacent LGAs.
- **Integrated planning:**

As part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework, council has developed and adopted a Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Plan and Operational Plan. The Resourcing Strategy, that supports these documents, is a critical link when translating goals and strategies of Wingecarribee 2031 into actions. The four-year Delivery Program is the point at which Council outlines what it intends to do towards achieving the community goals and is aligned with the four year Council term. The Annual Operational Plan supports the Delivery Program and contains the detail of actions to be undertaken in that financial year.

Road safety initiatives are embedded throughout these Plans and are implemented to improve road safety within the shire.

- **Education/Community awareness/Behavioural change:** In 2018 the NSW Government released the NSW Road Safety Plan 2021 for the strategic direction and actions to address key road safety issues. The plan identifies the 'critical role local council's play in reducing road trauma, delivering and refining Local Government Road Safety Program Guidelines (LGRSP)'. The following campaigns funded by TfNSW through LGRSP have been successfully conducted by Council to reduce trauma on local roads.
  - (a) Younger drivers: Graduated Licencing Scheme GLS Learner Driver Workshop, and Learner Logbook Run, are workshops designed to increase the confidence, knowledge and awareness of younger learner drivers, their parents and supervisors. 'U Turn the Wheel' is a program designed to target young, high risk road users through communal education and awareness initiatives.
  - (b) Children and pedestrians: Community awareness raising initiatives targeting schools, students, and parents on issues relating to school zone safety, traffic and parking offences, demerit points, the presence of resource materials such as high profile themed banners.
  - (c) Install/ Maintain/Reorientate 'Speed Busters' solar powered speed signs within the Shire are designed in part to increase driver's awareness of speed and adopt behavioural change when approaching towns and villages with high/higher pedestrian activity.
  - (d) The Driver Reviver Community Trailer is set up and available for hire by community organisations and driver reviver to increase public awareness around fatigue.
  - (e) 'Look Out Before You Step Out' is a state initiative designed to encourage pedestrians to take extra care, the important factor to 'LOOK' before stepping out fostering community awareness and behavioural change.
  - (f) 65 Plus senior driver information free workshops in collaboration with external stakeholders including Allied Health and Rotary.
- **Enforcement:** Council coordinates with police regarding enforcement activities and other road safety initiatives. Council provides speed and traffic data to police to support enforcement activities.

## **2. Opportunities for improving road safety planning and management on local roads**

- **Local Government Road Safety Program (LGRSP):** Council maintains a collaborative partnership with TfNSW by co-funding a Road Safety Officer to coordinate Regional/State and National Road Safety Initiatives at a local level under the LGRSP.

By applying for external funding grants supports Council to design, implement and evaluate local road safety education and awareness programs which assists Council to reduce likelihood of deaths and injuries from road trauma in our local communities.

Objectives of the LGRSP include adopting the 'Safe Systems Approach' (Road Safety Plan 2021) to road safety and integrate this within a strategic planning framework for local Councils. LGRSP also provides opportunities to form

partnerships with a variety of community stakeholders, foster and build upon a safe culture, and link Council and community activities in the achievement of road safety objectives.

- **Community Strategic Plan:** The plan identifies the community's values and vision for the shire through to the year 2031.

The provision of safe infrastructure is important to the community and as articulated in response item 1, Integrated Planning, is incorporated within council's delivery plans.

Community engagement and surveys specific to road safety should be considered and may provide Council and the community with the opportunity to better understand the key issues and challenges faced to improve road safety on local roads.

- **Innovation:** Current concerns include cost and affordability against traditional engineering solutions to overcome road safety issues. Developing innovative solutions to traditional engineering practices is seen as an opportunity to meet objectives within budget limitations.
- **Funding:** Funding remains an ongoing challenge for Council to effectively deliver local road network upgrades and maintenance and undertake extensive community engagement and consultation.

The Road Safety Officer position, jointly funded by TfNSW is a formulated two year contract and is not guaranteed. The uncertainty of a commitment to ongoing funding has a direct relationship in our ability to provide innovative and consistent longitudinal initiatives. This directly impacts our ability to expand upon existing road safety planning strategies, deliver current programs designed to educate, support awareness, and foster behavioural change.

### **3. The role of local communities and their representatives in identifying and delivering road safety initiatives to reduce trauma on local roads**

Road safety initiatives are a combination of engineering, education and enforcement which requires considerable stakeholder engagement. Local communities have a shared responsibility as road users to help identify road safety concerns to support Council in the delivery of road safety initiatives. Local communities may notify Council of road safety and other hazards via a notification system which allows Council addressing the issues. By participating in a variety of road safety programs and initiatives, local communities have greater access to road safety messages, education, awareness, regulations and technology information to best inform their driving behaviour and respond to road safety initiatives.

Council's Local Traffic Committee (LTC) comprises of a Councillor, Council staff, and representatives from TfNSW, the Police, and Local State Members of Parliament. Informal advisors including local bus and taxis operators are invited to participate in the LTC meeting. LTC assists in the delivery of road safety programs by providing professional recommendations on certain road safety issues and regulatory traffic management.

Consultation with internal Council stakeholders, in particular through the Local Traffic Committee, interaction with local residents, schools, government agencies, businesses, and other stakeholders is integral to delivery of effective road safety plan.

Should you require any additional information or have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Ann Prendergast  
**General Manager**