



## **DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT**

11th April 2006

**DSS4 ROAD SAFETY OFFICER – MARCH 2006**  
**FILE: 211 MJT {Folio No. \* }**

### **SUMMARY:**

Report on outcomes to date of the Council Road Safety Officer Program.



### **BACKGROUND:**

Council entered into partnership with the RTA and employed a Road Safety Officer on a 3-year contract. The initial 12 months was funded by the RTA and the remaining 2 years is funded on 50/50 basis. Mark Thompson commenced duties in this position in January 2005.

A key outcome of the Council Road Safety Program is the development of a Road Safety Strategic Plan that can be integrated into Council's Management Plan. Each year Council will also develop an Annual Road Safety Action Plan in conjunction with the RTA and other community stakeholders such as Police.

### **Road Safety Strategic Plan**

Council sought funding of \$8000.00 from the IPWEA in March 2005 and this funding was granted in July 2005, to design and implement a Road Safety Strategic Plan.

Consultation with IPWEA in September 2005 indicated that new guidelines were being produced and Council should wait for these guidelines to be distributed before embarking on the Strategic Plan. These guidelines still have not been made available. It is anticipated that the guidelines should be available in July 2006.

Initial consultation with stakeholders has commenced and forward planning of the strategic plan is underway. Some of the objectives of the Strategic Plan are:

- Contribute to ensuring safer road users, safer roads and safer vehicles.
- To provide road safety direction for the Council, community and other interested groups and organisations.
- To establish road safety as a priority within Council in the area of management of transport and land use.
- To integrate the activities of different divisions of the council in the achievement of road safety objectives.
- To develop community support for, awareness and ownership of and participation in, the process of improving local road safety.

The benefits of having such a plan will be:

- Clear road safety goals are set for Council and the community.
- Community relations for the council are improved through closer contact, increased publicity and better understanding of community concerns.
- Community involvement in and ownership of road safety issues is promoted.
- Council is positioned to take greater advantage of Federal and State road and road safety funding.
- Road safety is considered when priorities are determined for locals roadworks.
- Road safety is considered a priority when new building and streetscape developments are proposed.
- An information base is established for cohesive, long term planning for the development of the local road network, community services and community involvement.
- Contribution Plan to be created under Section 94 of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979
- Reduced trauma and reduced associated costs are achieved for the council and the local community.

## **ANNUAL ROAD SAFETY ACTION PLAN**

### **2005 Programs**

Council's Road Safety Officer has designed and implemented a number of programs to address the issues of concern in our community in consultation with key stakeholders. A brief description of some of the highlights follows:

#### **Young Drivers**

Safe Driver Training and Awareness Courses were held at Kempsey Airport for Local High Schools to participate. The courses targeted "P" and "L" plate drivers and involved theory and practical lessons on vehicle safety and safe driving methods. The courses were very well supported by the Local High Schools and the general community. The courses received excellent print and electronic

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media coverage. Surveys completed by participants and their parents indicated an increase awareness of road safety issues, and a greater understanding of the dynamics of motor vehicles and their personal abilities and restrictions was achieved.

<b>Participants</b>	<b>Stakeholders</b>	<b>Cost</b>
210 students 6 courses	Lions Club, Rural Fire Service, SES, St Paul's College, KSC, Safe Driver Training Brisbane	Sponsored by Local Organisations

The program was very successful, with other Councils seeking involvement, which resulted in positive feedbacks that were featured in the media. A development application was lodged and approved for the use of the airport and to stage future events. Whilst the initial training courses have been targeted towards young drivers, consideration will be given to conducting courses in the future which are aimed at other target groups such as seniors.

### **Aboriginal Licensing and Road Safety Awareness Program**

This program has been nominated for the IPWEA Excellence in Road Safety Awards, where the winner will be announced at the IPWEA Annual Conference held at Sydney in May this year.

The Program has received additional funding of \$18,000 from the Ministry of Transport and will be delivered in 33 workshops from Foster to Coffs Harbour.

### **Nightrider-Late Night Alternate Transport Program**

This program has also been nominated for the IPWEA Excellence in Road Safety Awards as a joint nomination with Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie Hastings Councils.

### **Helmets and a Hamburger, or a fine with no fries**

The program rewards children for doing the right thing whilst riding their bike. The program encourages Police to take a proactive approach by rewarding children who are doing the right thing with McDonald's vouchers, rather than fining them. Big W (helmets) and the local bike shops (maintenance) support the program. The program runs in school holiday periods.

### **Summary of other Programs**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>From</b>
Senior Road Safety	Safe Scooters DVD and Video in Libraries	\$300	RTA
School Zone &	Speed Alert Trailer has	\$18000	RTA

Speeding	been to all schools in the Shire and also used throughout the Shire in work zones and other roads.  School Zone audit and Program	\$2,000	RTA
Drink Driving	Alcolizer (x3) used at events and in local pubs & clubs		

These are just a few examples off the current programs implemented in our community.

During the first 12 months, the Road Safety Program has been able to cover a cross-section of our community with numerous and diverse activities. It has received strong commitment from government and community organisations as stakeholders to the program. These initiatives have been supported by the media and recognised by government organisations for delivering services and providing positive outcomes to the community.

**REPORT IMPLICATIONS:**

- ***Environmental Implications***

***There are no Environmental Implications arising from this report.***

- ***Social Implications***

***The social implications in many of the programs implemented have had a positive reflection on Council and have met outcomes outlined in Council's Social Plan.***

- ***Economic (Financial) Implications***

***The financial implication is that external funding of \$130,994 has been provided to Council and through the Strategic Plan. Greater contributions from external sources to contribute to infrastructure will be sought. Council is committed to 50/50 funding for the program for the next two years.***

- ***Policy or Statutory Implications***

***There are no policy or statutory implications.***

- ***Acting Director's Review***

*This program has proven most successful to date and it is anticipated that such success will continue for the balance of the program.*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the information be noted.

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A P Vermeulen  
Acting DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES