

SAFETY — SOUTH WEST REGION

Statement

HON COLIN TINCKNELL (South West) [6.38 pm]: I was going to make this statement yesterday, but there were a lot of messages of condolence and it did not seem appropriate in the circumstances. As a member of the South West Region, I know it has been a very bad week for the south west and for the state of Western Australia. Five people died on south west roads last week. We know that most of those accidents could have easily been avoided. It seems that there was a common theme: some of these accidents happened because people were not concentrating. I do not know whether it is just a feeling in the community at the moment after the pandemic we have been through and people are finally getting out to visit the regions. We are coming into the holiday period and the schoolies are down in the south west. According to reports in the newspaper this morning, there are a lot of problems, with a record number of schoolies asking for medical help after only one or two nights there. A couple of people have gone missing in the ocean. One body has been found and the other person is still missing, the last I heard. Then, of course, a person died in Broome after a shark bite.

Being a member of the South West Region, that traumatised me. That massive crash resulting in three deaths happened on a road that I use often. That road is three or four kilometres away from my house. I use that road 200 to 300 times a year. It is a tragedy for that community. It is a tragedy for those families. Most of the deaths on the roads have been young people. One person who died was aged 67. Families and friends have now lost those people for life.

I implore the public and everyone who travels on the roads to take care. The south west is just as busy as the metropolitan area. People need to take care. Drivers need to be patient. Many different vehicles on the roads, especially trucks, are not able to stop in a hurry if drivers make a wrong move. Whether out on the ocean or swimming at a remote beach, people need to ensure that they really check the conditions beforehand.