

ROAD SAFETY — ELECTRONIC SPEED ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

301. Mr P. ABETZ to the Minister for Road Safety:

Can the minister give the house an update on the electronic speed enforcement program that she announced earlier this year?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Southern River for his question on road safety. I welcome questions in this place on road safety.

The rate of fatalities in Western Australia has reduced by about 25 per cent since 2008, member for Southern River. The government remains committed.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: This Liberal–National government remains committed to reducing road trauma through our Safer Roads strategy, through enforcement and also through education. I am sure that members of the house are familiar with the statement I made earlier this year when I announced the government’s intention to significantly increase our speed camera fleet. The new program will involve an additional 600 hours for mobile speed cameras, an additional 60 red-light and intersection cameras, an additional 25 fixed cameras, a point-to-point camera trial, and the appointment of a consultant to assist us in implementing the program and ensuring an adequate level of community engagement, education and accountability around it.

So far, I am pleased to inform the house, 300 annual hours of mobile speed cameras are already in use in the great southern region, and that is in response to a high number of crashes in that region in recent times. We will soon be in a position to have the five fixed speed camera sites in the metropolitan area permanently installed, and the tender process for that is well underway. The process to appoint our consultant is well underway as well, member for Southern River. We are doing this because we know that speed cameras are internationally recognised as the quickest and most efficient way to change driver behaviour. Indeed, that has been played out when we analyse the results of our red-light and speed camera program. At intersections where they have been installed, we have seen a 60 per cent reduction in fatal and serious injury crashes.

Last year, we lost 184 people on Western Australian roads, and speed contributed to about 30 per cent of those crashes. Sadly, unless drivers correct their behaviour this year, we are on target to have a worse year than last year. This year we have already lost 57 souls on our roads. We need the community to get on board with us and to start taking a shared responsibility for road safety so that we can make inroads into correcting that terrible trauma toll on our community.

I remind people that a recent report from Royal Perth Hospital has backed up what police had already started to understand through their evidence-based policing model about the trauma of those people admitted to the trauma wards of hospitals. We have found that 60 per cent of adults involved in serious crashes had traffic records. Those are records for flouting road rules, for drink-driving offences, for not wearing seatbelts and indeed for using electronic devices in motor vehicles. There is therefore some work to do there, and we work collaboratively with the Department of Health, which is part of our Road Safety Council.

As we move into the Anzac weekend, many people will be moving around the state as they commemorate and celebrate Anzac Day. I remind people who are going to have a couple of shandies on Anzac Day to plan their transport ahead of time, take advantage of the free public transport and keep road safety as their primary and paramount focus to make sure that we all come home from those celebrations after the long weekend with our licences intact and safe and ready to start the next week.