

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY REVIEW GROUP

Statement by Minister for Road Safety

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Road Safety) [2.03 pm]: I would like to inform the house of the results of the work of the Motorcycle Safety Review Group. Motorcyclists are particularly vulnerable in the event of a crash given the lack of a protective barrier around them. Over the past five years, on average, 33 motorcycle and moped riders have died annually. Sadly, 14 motorcyclists have been killed this year after another tragic crash last night involving a moped and a bus. In 2014, 44 riders were killed, which was nearly one-quarter of all road fatalities for that year. To address this, I announced the formation of the Motorcycle Safety Review Group in January 2015. The Motorcycle Safety Review Group has representatives from the Insurance Commission of Western Australia, the Department of Transport, Main Roads Western Australia, the Road Safety Commission and WA Police. The group has presented me with a detailed analysis of fatal and serious motorcycle crashes between 2013 and 2014 and it has identified and recommended specific countermeasures to be pursued over the next four years. I released this report publicly last week and it is available on the Road Safety Commission website. This report will be the state government's blueprint for improving motorcycle safety in Western Australia over the next four years.

Implementation of these actions has already begun. On 1 April, European standard helmets became approved for use on Western Australian roads to offer riders a wider choice of high quality helmets. Many riders have been waiting for this change. Other actions that have commenced include encouraging correct road positioning for safer riding and promoting the existence of consumer ratings for helmets to local riders. These education initiatives complement the wider motorcyclist safety awareness campaign that aired between December 2015 and March this year targeting both riders and drivers of motor vehicles.

WA Police continue to enforce road laws using information on previous crashes and patterns of offences to target those areas, days and times at which riders are most at risk of fatal or serious injury. Work has also begun on scoping the implementation of more complex initiatives. These include changes to licensing processes and encouraging the uptake of improved road design and maintenance practices by state and local government authorities.

A detailed time frame for the rollout of the 39 actions recommended in the report will be presented to me shortly and I will be updated regularly by the Road Safety Commission as to the progress of these initiatives. The Liberal-National government is committed to improving the safety of motorcyclists on our roads and I look forward to informing the house as agencies work to implement these key motorcycle safety actions. I seek leave to table a copy of the Motorcycle Safety Review Group report and commend it to members of the house.

[See paper 4053.]