

**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION —
ROADWISE PROGRAM FUNDING**

Statement by Minister for Road Safety

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Road Safety) [2.04 pm]: I refer to the advertisement in *The West Australian* today by the Western Australian Local Government Association regarding reductions in funding to the RoadWise program. During the 2013–14 budget process, additional scrutiny was applied to Road Safety Council recommendations after the 2012 Auditor General’s report titled “Managing the Road Trauma Trust Account” stated —

The Road Safety Council cannot demonstrate that it has an effective process for making recommendations to maximise the chance of achieving the State’s road safety goals.

As a result of the report and an election commitment, the government has appointed respected former public servant, Mr Peter Browne, to undertake a review of road safety governance in Western Australia to ensure it has adequate capacity to make the most of the government’s significant increase to road safety funding. In the meantime, the government has scaled back some longstanding existing programs that were not delivering the best value for road safety spending. Whilst this has caused angst with the funded stakeholders, it is in the interests of ensuring the significant boost to road safety funding is spent in priority areas. The reductions in the RoadWise funding were specific and targeted and, as advised to the Western Australian Local Government Association in my correspondence of 14 August 2013, I proposed that the revised budget would include the following changes: ceased funding for the local government safe system project, which over a period of two years had only two local governments take up the initiative; reduced overhead administration costs to WALGA, given that road safety is a shared responsibility; and a transferal of the RoadWise grants program to the Office of Road Safety. WALGA advised that despite the proposed funding —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Sorry, just sit down, please.

Member for Girrawheen, you are not obliged to make a comment on every sentence that the minister says. I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. WALGA advised that despite the proposed funding still including 1.2 full-time equivalents for management of the program, over \$440 000 was required for corporate overheads to continue RoadWise. WALGA then proposed a modified program with a small reduction in FTE for the regional road safety program and one fewer child-car-restraints training session. To offset the reduction in the child-car-restraints training sessions, I proposed excluding government officers, who made up 27 per cent of the free training program in previous years. Faced with the choice of RoadWise ceasing to exist if WALGA were not funded for corporate overheads, I reluctantly agreed to the modified budget.

It is important to note that the community road safety grants program will —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: — continue to operate through the Office of Road Safety, about which more information will be announced shortly. It is disappointing that WALGA continues to publically imply that the grants program will cease despite it knowing to the contrary. It is also disappointing that WALGA resorted to purchasing a large advertisement in *The West Australian*, but does not contribute to the RoadWise program. I note that RoadWise continues to be a 100 per cent state government–funded project. Road safety is a shared responsibility, and I think it is unfortunate that WALGA has put its management costs, many of which would exist with or without RoadWise, ahead of community safety in Western Australia.