

OFF-ROAD VEHICLES — ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Statement by Minister for Local Government

MR D.R. MICHAEL (Balcatta — Minister for Local Government) [9.17 am]: I rise to update the house on recent appointments to the Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act Advisory Committee, or the ORV committee as it is more commonly known. The ORV committee provides advice to the government about future planning, investment and maintenance of facilities for off-road vehicle riding. ORVs include dirt bikes, trail bikes and quad bikes. There is no doubt that ORV riding is a popular sport, and I am very keen to do what I can to support safe and responsible ORV riding, including through working with local governments to manage and improve dedicated ORV areas.

The ORV committee is established under the Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978. It is the committee's role to consider submissions from local governments, public authorities or members of the public and provide advice to me, as Minister for Local Government, regarding the use of off-road vehicles under the act. Although the planning and identification of potential new areas for ORV users is important, we also need to make sure that we look after and maintain our existing ORV sites.

I am advised that since the 2020–21 financial year, \$336 245 from the ORV special purpose account has been released, including funding for maintenance and upgrades across the local government areas of the Shire of Gingin, the Shire of York and the City of Wanneroo. The new committee comprises a cross-section of government, industry and consumers. Each of the members bring valuable experience and expertise to their role. Members include Mr Tim Fraser as chair, Mr Aaron Cook, Cr Michelle Rich, Mr Rick Gill, Ms Jan Court, Mr Graham Cawley and Ms Kerstin Stender. A number of deputy members will support the work of the committee.

This newly re-established committee met for the first time last week and began identifying priority areas. It will continue to meet monthly to address those areas. I have also asked the committee for a clear work plan over the course of its membership, and I will share that with relevant stakeholders at the earliest opportunity. I am confident that the committee can achieve significant outcomes for the benefit of ORV users and the general public across Western Australia, and I look forward to working with it in this role.