

ROAD SAFETY — NARRIKUP

Grievance

MS E.J. KELSBIE (Warren–Blackwood) [9.45 am]: I rise today to raise a grievance with the Minister for Transport concerning road safety in Narrikup, and I thank Minister Saffioti for taking my grievance. Narrikup is a small town in my electorate, in the Shire of Plantagenet. It is nestled off Albany Highway, south of Mt Barker. Narrikup is home to the famous giant Bradbury cricket bat, which was resurrected at the Narrikup Cricket Club earlier this year. The club is also famous for its picket fence made from old cricket bats. The community there is passionate about cricket, but, more importantly, it is passionate about road safety and keeping kids safe.

Earlier this year I met with the Narrikup road safety working group and the Shire of Plantagenet to hear their concerns and their advocacy for safety improvements along Albany Highway. The Narrikup road safety working group was formed in October last year following a well-attended special electors' meeting at the Narrikup Hall. This important meeting was triggered by a community petition to improve road safety. The working group comprises Shire of Plantagenet CEO Cameron Woods; Shire of Plantagenet president Chris Pavlovich; Shire of Plantagenet deputy president Jon Oldfield; Shire of Plantagenet executive manager, works and services, David Lynch; and passionate community members Carolyn Porter, Kate Harriss, Tony Poad and Jeff Schneider.

I have had several discussions with the shire and Narrikup road safety working group representatives over the last year and I have advocated on the community's behalf to the Minister for Transport regarding its concerns about road safety, along Albany Highway and more broadly. A comprehensive safety audit for this stretch of road was completed earlier this year. Following the audit, the minister announced a six-month speed reduction trial, reducing the speed from 110 kilometres an hour to 90 kilometres an hour between Spencer Road and Jackson Road, an approximately 1.7-kilometre stretch along Albany Highway. Other safety improvements, including a slip lane at the turn-off to Narrikup, are currently being evaluated.

Improving road safety is, I know, a key priority of the McGowan government. We have delivered several long-awaited road safety treatments in the Mt Barker region, with more planned for the future. We have widened, sealed shoulders and installed audible edge lines on Albany Highway between Mt Barker and Albany; sealed shoulders and installed audible edge lines on Muir Highway between Denmark–Mount Barker Road and Langton Road; and sealed shoulders and installed audible edge lines on Albany Highway between Frankland–Cranbrook Road and north of the Muir Highway roundabout, but I also know we can always do more.

My grievance today specifically relates to an existing school bus stop located on Albany Highway. Following my discussions with the Shire of Plantagenet and the Narrikup road safety working group, I have been advocating on behalf of the community for a change to the bus stop location, which would see it removed from Albany Highway. This is a matter I have raised with both the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Education and Training, Hon Sue Ellery. Moving the bus stop from Albany Highway to an alternative, safer location was also identified as a recommendation in the 2022 audit. I have sought formal advice from Shire of Plantagenet CEO Cameron Woods that the shire will be able to accommodate the requirements for a 57-seater bus to enable the relocation of the bus stop from Albany Highway to a suitable location on Hannan Way.

Keeping kids safe on our roads is of the utmost importance. The Narrikup community, the working group and the Shire of Plantagenet, along with myself, are advocating for this change. The recent independent safety audit recommended moving the bus stop. I have had positive discussions on improving road safety outcomes for students and parents who use this bus stop, and on the issue of road safety in Narrikup more broadly. Today I am seeking an update on this issue to see whether we can offer Narrikup residents a positive resolution to their safety concerns. I thank the minister once again for taking my grievance.

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan — Minister for Transport) [9.50 am]: I thank the member for Warren–Blackwood for her grievance and I again commend her for her strong and continued advocacy for her region. We are all coming to learn just what an excellent member she is for that region. We hear from everyone that she is everywhere, delivering and actively supporting her region. It is really great to see, particularly for towns like that, which I know are very hard to get around because they are very different towns with different priorities and interests. The member is balancing very different views from across the area. The member is advocating for each town and each region and she is treating each of them as an entity on their own, which they are. That is very important, particularly in those towns in which the aspirations and views of many people in one town may be different from others. She is working really hard to represent their views.

On a more general note, how good were the Socceroos winning overnight? Incredible!

Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski: Very tired today.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Yes. They are down to the round of 16. Congratulations to the Socceroos with their incredible results from overseas.

I go back to the key point, which is regional road safety in Narrikup and also what the member has been advocating for. As the member said, we undertook a road safety review and she has been strongly advocating for road safety improvements in and around Narrikup. One of the issues the member raised is how much we have already spent on the road safety program that we are rolling out along Albany Highway. Throughout the member's electorate, over \$88 million has been invested in projects to specifically improve safety, such as the sealing of shoulders, the installation of audible verge lines and curb reconstruction. We will continue to roll out these types of programs across the state.

One of the key things the member raised with me is the location of the bus stop. She asked whether it could be shifted because of road safety concerns. We took this up and asked our agency to review the situation and look at relocating the bus stop from Albany Highway to a safer location in the vicinity of the Narrikup town hall. The good news is that the Public Transport Authority has confirmed that this would be a suitable location for that new bus stop. The PTA has also confirmed the new location with the Shire of Plantagenet and has advised the local school bus operators, of which there are three services—Yakamia–Highway, Yakamia–Willyung and Albany–Coodanup—of the changes. The bus services will operate to and from this new stop from the start of the 2023 school year. The agency will now advise affected families of the bus stop change prior to the end of this school year. That is very good news, member. We will be relocating that bus stop, which will make it safer for everyone. Again, I thank the member for her positive advocacy in this situation.