

Your local voice



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MINUTES PUBLIC MEETING. WEDNESDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2022

See also video of meeting, live streamed and uploaded to WCCC Facebook page

COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE: Bill Gemmell (Chair), Michelle Bourdet, Liam Foley, Louise Hughes, Michelle Weston, Mark Boast

COMMITTEE APOLOGIES: Lesley Pattinson, Diana Terry

MLAS IN ATTENDANCE: Dr Marissa Paterson MLA

APOLOGIES: Emma Davidson MLA

MEETING OPENED: 7:35 pm. 4 signed in attendance plus guests and WCCC committee members. Unique Facebook 185 views of meeting video (as of 29 November 2022).

Welcome to members and guests. Chair, Bill Gemmell

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We are honoured to be meeting on the ancestral lands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We acknowledge these First Australians as the traditional custodians of this land, whose cultures are among the oldest living in human history. We pay respect to the Elders of the communities in the Murrumbidgee region and extend our recognition to their descendants – past, present, and future.

7:37 pm PRESENTATIONS and Q&A:

PANEL DISCUSSION DANGEROUS DRIVING

Tom McLuckie (ACT Now for Safe Roads), with Mark Boast (MRA Motorcyclists Association), and Bill Gemmell (WCCC Chair)

Chair, Bill Gemmell introduced the topic and the speakers.

Tom McLuckie (ACT Now for Safe Roads)

See also PowerPoint presentation

- Matthew McLuckie was tragically killed in a terrible motor vehicle incident on 19 May 2022
- He was met head on by a stolen, speeding, car driving on the wrong side of the road
- Background to this campaign:
 - Government response included that Matthew's case was an isolated incident, that the DASL is treating recidivism and saving money, there is no under resourcing of police.
 - There is legislation that covers these issues – Crimes Act and Road Transport (safety and traffic management) Act 1999
- Motor vehicle theft is often the means for offenders to carry out other criminal activities

- The Territory is on target to achieve highest ever number of bail breaches ever. Police data shows 940 breaches of bail by offenders in the ACT for the first half of this year
- Police data has revealed that the ACT has the highest level of recidivism in the country with 83% of offences across the country being committed by recidivist offenders
- With Operation TORIC, more than 90 people have been arrested for serious and reckless criminal offence

Mark Boast (MRA Motorcyclists Association)

- Thanked Tom McLuckie for his work after tragic circumstances that his for the benefit of all of us
- People get their license, but when is then again checked?
- Posed the question how do we stop serious incidents for families, emergency workers etc.? There are huge emotional and economic consequences
- Represented the MRA at the Dangerous Driving Inquiry and believes in advocacy and safe roads for all
- Vulnerable road users should be the starting point for our expectations for safe roads. Push bikes are being pushed off the roads. Vehicles are getting larger.
- Recommends a system approach to break things down and relate to other parts of the system.

Bill Gemmell (WCCC Chair)

- Summarised what concerns the Weston Creek Community have passed on to Council. There is a long history of concerns about dangerous driving over many years. Residents do not feel that their concerns are being taken seriously
- Council made a submission to the Dangerous Driving Inquiry
- Lack of police presence in Weston Creek. The Police Model is not visible
- Where are the targets for Vision Zero? Concerns that dangerous behaviour is increasing
- Requests that injury, long term injury and burden are tracked (Long tail disability)
- Support for victims is not adequate
- Greater steps need to be taken for prevention, such as vehicle driver identification, better car security

DISCUSSION

Sample questions and comments from the audience:

- Thank you to all speakers particularly Tom McLuckie
- Q: Problems with the justice system and road safety. What is the key area to focus on? A: policing is never a simple solution. Programs of support for victims and families needed. Need to address underlying issues. Look at incentives such as insurance discounts.
- Around 50% incidents involve unregistered drivers or vehicles. Need to look at our measures of road safety.
- Concerns that population is being de-sensitised and/or unaware.
- Consequences need to be clear, consistent, and appropriate
- Look at different models, for example New Zealand fines and confiscations
- Tighter controls needed on advertising

Chair thanked Tom McLuckie for sharing his experiences and thoughts. Wished him all the best.

MURRUMBIDGEE MLAs

We always have an open invitation to all Murrumbidgee MLAs to speak at the WCCC public meetings.

DR Marissa Pattinson MLA

- Dangerous Driving Inquiry hearings today and tomorrow. The Committee will write a report and the Government will respond in 2023. This is a concerning issue.
- Stop Gambling Petition is current
- Sponsored a petition for No Rights No Remedy when human rights have been breached. Recommendation that a complaint process be Government agreed. Human Rights will deal with this process after ACAT
- Two more sitting weeks
- Budget estimates hearings have just finished

Questions:

- What will the construction for light rail look like? A: Will be world best practice and disruptions will be assessed
- Q: Will the light rail be going down Adelaide Avenue A: Engineers will look at this. This is best answered by Minister Steel
- Weston Creek residents still cannot get a direct bus to the hospital or the Deakin Health Precinct. A: Will continue the conversation. There is a scam at the moment, Canberra Health is not ringing people asking for their details

8:50 pm GENERAL MEETING

- Minutes of the meeting of September 2022
Moved: Rosemary Drabsch Seconded: Louise Hughes Accepted: Yes.
- Business arising from the minutes of the meeting of September 2022. None

CLOSE OF MEETING: 8:51 pm.

OPENING OF AGM, Chair stood down and Returning Officer stepped up.

See AGM minutes

NEXT WCCC PUBLIC MEETING: Wednesday November
VENUE: Weston Creek Community Centre