



Mid West CASE STUDY IRWIN / DONGARA ROADWISE COMMITTEE

Community Overview

The Committee covers the Shire of Irwin, an area of 2,223 sq kms with a population of 3,780. The main industries include: farming, fishing, manufacturing, oil and gas, mineral sands mining and tourism. There is a large proportion of people at retirement age.

Committee Overview

The Committee is a formal Committee of Council that meets bi-monthly. The Committee has a road safety action plan (or strategy) that is usually reviewed during each meeting. The overall vision is to work with the local Shire, WA Police, St John, Main Roads WA, local service groups and community to address all road safety issues in the district with the main focus being the safe system approach. Safe roads and roadsides, safe speeds, safe road use and safe vehicles are all addressed in the Committee's action plan.

Road safety activities 2015-16

Examples of local road safety activities:

- Annual road safety information stand at the Larry Lobster Festival each November, involving a road safety quiz and much interaction with the public.
- Distribution of road ribbons, as part the *Road Ribbon for Road Safety*® campaign, at the annual Carols by Candlelight event.
- *Blessing of the Roads* during Carols by Candlelight each December.
- A regular monthly road safety column in the Shire newsletter.
- Two days of school holiday program road safety activities.
- Various community awareness displays or activities throughout the year.

Some challenges faced by the Committee are to ensure local roads are as safe as possible. The RoadWise Committee has liaised with Main Roads WA on numerous occasions with resulting signage, speed reductions and road intersection monitoring.

Pictured above: Pic 1, Keys for Life and parents road safety workshop. Pic 2, Larry Lobster making an appearance at the RoadWise stand.

**Formal Committee
of Council**

**Covers a
population of 3,700**

**Coordinated 6
major activities in
2015-2016**

**Committee meets
bi-monthly**

**10 RoadWise
Committee
Members**

COMMITTEE REPS

Local Government
Elected Members
Local Government
officers
WA Police
St John Ambulance
State Emergency
Services
School Drug Education
and Road Aware
(SDERA)
Main Roads WA
Dongara Lions Club
WALGA RoadWise

Lessons learnt are that the Committee likes to remain flexible and adapt activities to suit their Shire such as blessing the roads prior to Christmas, rather than Easter.

If community interest and participation does not meet the Committee expectations, they review their approach and adapt it accordingly. As an example, the Easter races road safety stall was not seen to be successful and therefore the Committee focused their attention on other opportunities to promote road safety.

The Committee generates community participation when required for events such as the Larry Lobster, Keys for Life and *Blessing of the Roads*. The Committee works closely with WA Police, Fire and Emergency Services, the Shire of Irwin, Main Roads WA and any other appropriate organisations when required.