



Daryl Maguire MP

Member for Wagga Wagga

PRESS RELEASE

01 December 2017

NEW CAMPAIGN TO SAVE COUNTRY LIVES ON WAGGA WAGGA ROADS

Daryl Maguire MP, Member for Wagga Wagga today announced the first ever comprehensive road safety education campaign to target regional NSW in an all-out effort to spread the critical message that too many country people are dying on the state's roads.

Saving Lives On Country Roads aims to highlight the hidden crisis unfolding almost daily on the state's regional road network, a crisis which is devastating families and local communities.

The campaign is also designed to kick start a new conversation in the country by challenging the 'yeah but!' attitude of excuses many drivers make to justify taking deadly risks on our roads like speeding, drink and drug driving, driving tired and not wearing seatbelts.

"We need to face up to the fact that far too many country people are dying on our roads," Mr Maguire said.

"Last year we lost 252 people in the country. That's two thirds of the road toll for the entire state.

"Here in Wagga Wagga 21 people have lost their lives and 395 were seriously injured on our roads in the past five years from 2012 to 2016. This has to stop.

"And that's why a campaign like this is so important to get the message across to country drivers that it's not tourists or people from the city dying on their roads, it is locals.

"It's also time for the excuses to stop. It's not good enough for drivers to say things like 'I was only going a few kilometres over the limit' or 'I didn't think I needed to take a break because I was so close to home' or 'Yeah, I'd had a few drinks but I needed to get the kids home'."

As part of the campaign, which Mr Maguire launched in Wagga Wagga today, the NSW government and Transport for NSW, will partner with local councils, community groups and local industries to help spread this important safety message across regional NSW.

It is backed up by a comprehensive \$70 million Government road safety infrastructure investment package for this financial year which includes \$54 million for vital safety upgrades on the state's riskiest regional roads.

The NSW Government is completing more than \$1.5 million worth of work to upgrade roads in the Wagga Wagga electorate this financial year including sections of the Olympic Highway and Sturt Highway. These upgrades will include the removal of hazards along the road, increasing the shoulder so that drivers have more recovery space and installing rumble strips to alert tired drivers along curves.

Media: Sarah Vasey
Phone: 02 6921 1622 or 0432 230 003
Email: sarah.vasey@parliament.nsw.gov.au



Daryl Maguire MP

Member for Wagga Wagga

PRESS RELEASE

Campaign Ambassador and Wagga Wagga Health Emergency Specialist Associate Professor Shane Curran said hospitals in the region cared for road crash victims almost daily and staff too often saw senseless injury and death from risks being taken on the local roads.

“Emergency services are too often confronted by the impacts of speeding, drink driving and driving while fatigued. As a small community it’s tough on our staff as they often know the victims or their families,” Dr Curran said.

“Our emergency teams are at a loss to understand why people continue to take these risks, risks that are having catastrophic impacts to people’s lives.

“It is not only the crash victim that is impacted, family and friends are affected by the longer-term health outcomes of crash victims

“Often, crash victims are treated at a distant major hospital, affecting the ability of their family and friends to be at their bedside and this impacts the recovery of the victims.”

The new \$3.4 million dollar campaign is part of the NSW Government’s vision of a future free of road trauma and the ultimate goal of zero deaths and serious injuries on our roads.