

**NSW Road Safety Forum
Coffs Harbour
8th May 2012**

Forum Submission

The Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia NSW Division (IPWEA) and participants in the 2012 Road Safety Forum have resolved to announce the following submission.

The Institute counts as its members a significant number of Road Safety Officers employed by Local Government under the Local Government Road Safety Program. In addition the IPWEA supports other professionals charged with the responsibility for delivering and maintaining a safe local road network.

An Expanded Role for Road Safety Officers in Local Government

The publication of the National Road safety strategy 2011- 2020 advocates a safe systems approach concentrating on safe vehicles, safe roads, safe people: an approach strongly supported by the IPWEA/Roads Directorate submission. The strategy recognised that Local Government owns 85% of the road network on which 50% of the road trauma occurs. Moreover Local Government supports almost 100% of communities. Further significant reductions in road trauma and achievement of the long term goals of the strategy can only be achieved if Local Government is an active and willing partner in the strategy. The body of existing Road Safety officers are well positioned to take a leading role in realising this objective

Recent reports by the NSW Staysafe Committee have affirmed their support for a continued program of Road Safety Officers and expansion of their role both numerically and in their influence in local communities.

Request Transport for NSW

As the custodians of the Local Government Road Safety Program, we request that Transport for NSW -

- Confirm continued funding for existing Road Safety Officers under the LGRSP for the duration of the National Road Safety Strategy as a minimum ;
- Expand the program to currently unserved Local Government areas; and
- Review the roles to empower RSOs to be agents of change within their communities and establish a safe systems culture within Local Government.

Request the NSW Government

For the continued delivery of programs to meet the National Objectives, the LGRSP needs to be fully resourced, both financially and physically. We request that the NSW Government ensures bi-partisan support to see an effective Road Safety culture delivered through Local Government.

The Delegates of this forum and IPWEA look forward to the opportunities to present these issues personally and expand on our vision for road safe local communities.

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