

**ROAD SAFETY — STREETS ALIVE INITIATIVE**

*Statement by Minister for Road Safety*

**MR D.R. MICHAEL (Balcatta — Minister for Road Safety)** [1.26 pm]: This morning, I was pleased to be part of a colourful, lively announcement for the Streets Alive initiative, which not only makes our public spaces more livable, but also creates a safer environment for all road users. It was great to join our excellent member for Maylands to witness members of the Inglewood on Beaufort Town Team painting the pavement and creating planter boxes, transforming it into a safer, more active space.

At this morning's event, the Cook government announced \$5 million of funding over five years to the Town Team Movement. The Town Team Movement is a citizen-led, not-for-profit initiative that works collaboratively with local communities and governments with a focus on creating connected and resilient communities and better places. Through town teams, \$1 million a year has been allocated to enable local governments and community groups all over Western Australia to bring their streets alive. This can be done simply and often creatively by redesigning local roads to calm traffic and make the streets more pedestrian friendly. Through this initiative, funds will go directly towards local traffic calming initiatives on roads across the state via a grants program. The grants will include categories such as road transformation, safer streets and town projects. Funding will also be spent on building support and understanding of the program across the state. This includes road safety education in targeted regional and metropolitan areas and working directly with councils and communities to support on-ground projects and grant applications.

Evidence demonstrates that slower speed means fewer and less serious crashes on our roads. By delivering traffic-calming initiatives to reduce speeds on local government roads, road safety will be improved for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists of all ages and abilities and people using other forms of transport like mobility scooters. Oversight of the program will be undertaken by a committee with representatives from Main Roads, the Department of Transport, the Road Safety Commission and the Western Australian Local Government Association. The funding I announced this morning demonstrates the state government's commitment to supporting local community initiatives for safe and active streets.

The Town Team Movement works to empower these communities to get involved. I congratulate Jimmy Murphy and his team on their continued work and advocacy. We are proud to support this grassroots movement and I look forward to seeing more neighbourhoods become safer and more connected and vibrant over the next five years.