

Question on Notice

No. 834

Asked on 17 June 2021

MR M CRANDON ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the increase in the number of first time users of caravans due to COVID-19 travel restrictions—

Will the Minister advise how much money has been spent on caravan focused road safety initiatives in the 2020–21 financial year?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Coomera for the question.

During the 2020–21 financial year, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) awarded \$38,557 through the Community Road Safety Grants to support caravan safety initiatives. These grants were awarded to:

- Queensland Police Service (QPS) Cairns Road Policing Unit (\$18,582) to produce educational videos on towing safety and to purchase weigh scales for educational purposes
- Caravanning Queensland (\$19,975) to host 18-20 inspection days across Queensland cities and regional centres to improve knowledge about safety compliance and weight limits when towing a caravan.

In the latest round of the Community Road Safety Grants (2021–22), TMR approved \$15,799 to Thargomindah QPS to provide tourists with caravanning and towing education, including the purchase of weigh scales.

Caravan-focused road and towing safety messages are also regularly featured on TMR's StreetSmarts social media channels, including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube. These channels have more than 160,000 followers and reach up to 1.5 million road users every month. In total, StreetSmarts has spent \$12,000 producing and promoting caravanning safety through social media. Caravan focused road safety messages featured on StreetSmarts during the 2020–21 financial year were:

- a December 2020 post that reached nearly 150,000 people and provided a reminder to include rest stops in journey planning
- an October 2020 video post that reached 117,000 people, highlighting the importance of leaving a sufficient gap to the vehicle in front
- a July 2020 video post reaching 276,000 people, warning caravaners of the dangers of windshear sway when passing heavy vehicles at speed.

TMR has also worked with the QPS and community organisations to support caravan focused road safety initiatives throughout the 2020–21 financial year. This has included attendance at:

- six caravan and camping shows to provide community education
- six caravan safety check events to educate on vehicle loads and towing safety
- nine community road safety education events, which has included information on caravan safety.