

Burnouts lead parents to call for school zone limit



■ Elisia Seeber

Fresh burnouts on the road adjacent to Comet Bay Early Childhood Annex were enough to push parents to call for a 40km/h zone.

The kindergarten on Surf Drive has operated without a school zone for up to three years, but parents fear it is only a matter of time before an accident claims the life of a child.

Parent Cass Levitzke said parents called for school zone signage to be installed last year, but claimed the request was rejected by Main Roads WA because 40km/h zones were not compulsory for kindergartens.

"Our greatest fear is if someone's child was to run out on to the road," she said.

Parent Emma Anderson said the kindergarten operated daily with up to 130 children.

"It is a kindy, (so) it doesn't make sense that it doesn't have 40km/h speed signs. It is a busy road and a pretty major artery for the community," she said.

Mrs Levitzke said parents would start a petition for the school zone and hoped the community would support the cause.



MLA Paul Papalia and parent Cass Levitzke call for a 40km/h zone on Surf Drive. Picture: Elisia Seeber

Warnbro MLA Paul Papalia said he would be writing to the police, education and transport ministers requesting not just the 40km/h zones, but also regular policing and other traffic calming measures in the area.

"I can't believe the roads adjacent to the Early Childhood Education annex aren't already 40km/h zones," he said.

"The Government must act

quickly to reduce speed limits in the area, but must also ensure it is regularly policed and other traffic calming measures are employed to make it safe for the very young children at the site."

A Main Roads spokesman said the department had not received a request for a school zone in the location. The spokesman said it was possible for a 40km/h school zone to be installed.

Readers back widow's plea

■ Clare Negus

The call from a Golden Bay widow to reduce the speed limit on Mandurah Road from 100km/h to 80km/h prompted a big response from *Telegraph* readers.

Kate Woodland's husband Michael died in a crash on March 27 at the road's intersection with Surf Drive in Secret Harbour.

Mrs Woodland wants the speed limit on the road from Golden Bay to Port Kennedy reduced and signs asking motorists to "Think Bike" installed at junctions.

"It is beyond belief that you can take a right turn across traffic travelling at 100km/h," she said.

The issue prompted comments from the public who supported Mrs Woodland's campaign.

About 25 residents at Bethanie

Waters retirement village, whose homes back onto Ennis Avenue, have been pushing for a lower speed limit since 2011.

Others shared their views on the *Telegraph's* Facebook page, saying 100km/h was dangerous when motorists had to cross the dual-lane carriageway.

Some called for traffic lights to be installed at the road's intersections with Port Kennedy Drive and Surf Drive.

Telegraph readers have been asked to identify roads in the region they consider dangerous.

Readers can visit the RAC Risky Roads website and nominate roads they think are in urgent need of safety upgrades.

The RAC will use the results to lobby the State and Federal governments to improve roads.

Visit www.riskyroads.com.au.

Officer is injured

An off-duty police officer was found injured outside The Chase Bar and Bistro at 12.20am Sunday, after police were called to investigate a disturbance on Settlers Avenue, Baldivis.

The officer was taken to Rockingham General Hospital.

If you have information, call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Stolen items found

Police discovered stolen items after searching a 39-year-old man and his vehicle at Warnbro Fair Shopping Centre on Thursday.

Rockingham Senior Sergeant Stuart Mearns said the man was arrested and charged with three counts of receiving stolen goods.

The man is set to appear in Rockingham Magistrates Court later this month.

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