



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Communications

Office of Road Safety: Special Update – Christmas 2020

Christmas message from the Head of the Office of Road Safety

This has been a difficult year for many, dealing with bushfires, smoke, hail, flooding, and COVID-19 with associated isolation to help reduce its spread. While we have coped with all of this, the road safety task has not given us any concessions—it is just as important as ever. That said, we have made strong steps towards developing the new *National Road Safety Strategy 2021-30* and I thank you all for your contributions so far. A draft of the Strategy is expected to be released in early 2021 to ensure all stakeholders will have the opportunity to contribute before the final Strategy is considered by Ministers for endorsement in 2021.

Coming into the holiday season and a new year, I have a small request.

There is a concept in communications called *content amplification*. In essence, it is about reaching beyond an established audience to others who digest and on-share a message. Moving forward into the New Year, I ask that each of you takes some time to think about how we can have a greater influence outside of our usual circles. How can you influence beyond your organisation, beyond your faculty and reach perhaps the wider student body, beyond your car or bike club membership to your footy or cricket club, and beyond your immediate family and friends to develop a safety-first mindset to road safety?

An example of this might be to think about where your friends, kids of friends and your kids' friends might look for a new car, new or new to them. For some it's Instagram, or Facebook but generally it's word of mouth peer to peer and you may be able to encourage them to make a safe choice. This New Year, be creative to see if you can influence more broadly than to those who matter to you most. Empowering people with knowledge and a safety-first attitude will have a flow on effect if the information received is credible and compelling. As we've all had to be creative and inventive this year to connect, I encourage you to utilise all your new found resourcefulness to amplify the reach of the road safety message.

Thank you again for working with the Office of Road Safety. I hope you all have an enjoyable holiday period and an opportunity to recharge for 2021. Keep safe, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

A stocktake on road safety achievements

Much has been achieved in road safety over the last 18 months, including the establishment of the Office of Road Safety in July 2019.

Now towards the end of 2020, it is a good opportunity to reflect on some of the achievements in road safety over that time:

- Requirement for all investments in road infrastructure planning, design and construction to apply safe system principles and include safety treatments as part of National Partnership Agreements on Land Transport Infrastructure Projects announced in August 2019;
- Agreement by all Transport and Infrastructure Ministers to all 12 recommendations of the *Inquiry into the National Road Safety Strategy (2018)*, November 2019;

- Twenty projects announced in January 2020 as part of the Road Safety Awareness and Enablers Fund Round 1;
- Thirteen projects announced in July 2020 as part of the Road Safety Innovation Fund Round 1;
- \$500 million investment in the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program announced in May 2020;
- \$500 million Targeted Road Safety Works Program announced in June 2020;
- \$2 billion Road Safety Program announced in October 2020 with an almost immediate rollout of projects due to start in the New Year;
- \$5.5 million to establish the Road Safety Data Hub announced in October 2020; and
- Releasing interactive dashboards on Random Breath Testing and Roadside Drug Testing across Australia through the Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics.

These achievements and investment by the Australian Government will continue to drive road safety outcomes and progress us along the path to the elimination of road trauma in Australia. For more information on the Office of Road Safety and its programs, visit: www.officeofroadsafety.gov.au.

Road safety milestones achieved in New South Wales

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, the Hon Michael McCormack MP, announced recently that work on road safety improvements in New South Wales had begun in regional communities across the state.

Since the Australian Government's commitment of \$140 million for the program in June 2020, 59 additional Safer Roads Program projects have been accelerated with the projects expected to prevent approximately 590 serious injuries and fatalities.

"We know the impacts of road crashes are devastating and that's why we are focused on doing everything possible to move towards zero fatalities and serious injuries on our roads," the Deputy Prime Minister said.

The program is also expected to provide approximately 950 direct and indirect jobs throughout the lifespan of the program providing a boost in cash-flow for affected communities.

The improvements funded by the program are aimed at producing sustainable and long-term reductions in road trauma that ultimately support the vision for zero fatalities by 2050.

For further information and a full list of the funded projects, visit: minister.infrastructure.gov.au/mccormack/media-release/road-safety-and-jobs-boost-regional-new-south-wales.

Additionally, on 17 December 2020, the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, and the Deputy Prime Minister announced the completion of the Pacific Highway upgrade, with the final section, Woolgoolga to Ballina, now open to traffic.

Since the upgrade began in 1996, fatalities have fallen by more than half, and in the next 20 years it is expected that there will be 8,039 fewer crashes, 4,218 fewer injuries and 565 lives that will be saved.

The Pacific Highway upgrade has been jointly funded by the Australian and New South Wales governments over more than 20 years from 1996 to 2020.

To view the full media release, visit:

www.minister.infrastructure.gov.au/mccormack/media-release/communities-celebrate-completion-pacific-highway-upgrade

Australian Road Safety Foundation Launches Christmas Speed Awareness Campaign

The Australian Road Safety Foundation (ARSF) has recently launched a new road safety awareness campaign targeting speeding behaviours in the Christmas break period. The ARSF urges road users to #ChooseRoadSafety and remember the effect of trauma from motor vehicle crashes, not only on those involved but the frontline workers who respond to them.

You can influence others by encouraging them to pledge to #ChooseRoadSafety with you online at www.ARSF.com.au - click [here](#) to watch a great news clip on the Canberra Christmas campaign.

The ARSF is proudly supported by the Office of Road Safety through its Road Safety Awareness and Enablers Fund. For more information on the Office of Road Safety's Programs, visit: <https://www.officeofroadsafety.gov.au/programs>.

Heavy Vehicle Industry Awards – Brisbane, 30 November 2020

The Heavy Vehicle Industry Australia (HVIA) presented awards to individuals and organisations showing leadership and innovation in the heavy vehicle sector.

Of particular note to road safety was the awarding of HVIA's Safety Innovation Award to JOST Australia for its development of a Pneumatically Operated Sensor Fifth Wheel. The innovation reduces the likelihood of a dropped trailer, an incident that has the potential to cause serious injury to vehicle operators.

Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport, the Hon Scott Buchholz MP, presented the award to the JOST Australia team. Assistant Minister Buchholz said "the Australian Government has a strong focus on improving safety in the industry, through programs such as the Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative, which provides \$5.9 million in Round 5 for twenty-six projects."

To view the full media release, visit: minister.infrastructure.gov.au/buchholz/media-release/innovation-safety-celebrated-heavy-vehicle-industry-awards.

For full details of the awards presented at the event, visit: www.hvia.asn.au/events/hvia-national-awards/.

Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative – Round 6

Earlier in the year the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, the Hon Michael McCormack MP and Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport, the Hon Scott Buchholz MP, announced the Australian Government has provided \$5.55 million for Round 6 of the Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative (HVSI) program.

"The Federal Government is again showing our support for heavy vehicle projects delivered by groups that want to make our roads and heavy vehicle operations even safer," the Deputy Prime Minister said.

The HVSI program funds initiatives that deliver tangible improvements in road user, road and heavy vehicle safety. Round 6 has a specific focus on achieving safer drivers, safer vehicles and safer road use.

"There are some clever people with some clever ideas on how to improve road safety that just need some support to deliver those programs," Mr Buchholz said.

Applications for Round 6 are now open, closing on 12 February 2021.

To view the full media release, visit: minister.infrastructure.gov.au/mccormack/media-release/record-funding-call-heavy-vehicle-safety-programs

For further information, including Submission guidelines and forms, visit: www.nhvr.gov.au/about-us/heavy-vehicle-safety-initiative.

Statistical releases - Road safety

The Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics (BITRE) has recently released a range of statistical bulletins. Its November 2020 Fatality Figures report 106 road deaths for the month of November 2020. The current figure is 7.5 per cent higher than the average for November over the previous five years.

During the 12 month period ending November 2020, there were 1,132 road deaths. This represents a 3.7 per cent decrease in road deaths from the 12 month period ending November 2019.

Significantly, this 12 month period's rate of annual deaths per 100,000 people decreased 5 per cent from the 12 month period ending in November 2019.

For more information on road safety statistics, visit: www.bitre.gov.au/statistics/safety.

Office of Road Safety Events Calendar

Have a road safety event that you would like to promote? The Office of Road Safety Events Calendar is regularly updated with events taking place around the country. If you would like to add your event, please contact us by emailing officeofroadsafety@infrastructure.gov.au.

Getting in touch

If you would like to get in touch with the Office of Road Safety, please email us on the link below or go to our website:

officeofroadsafety@infrastructure.gov.au

www.officeofroadsafety.gov.au