



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development and Communications

## Office of Road Safety Newsletter – February 2021

### Have your say on the National Road Safety Strategy 2021-30

The draft National Road Safety Strategy for 2021-30 (Strategy) is now open for consultation. This is your opportunity to have input into the Strategy before it is finalised by governments.

The draft Strategy for 2021-30 sets targets to reduce death and serious injuries on Australian roads over the next 10 years, setting us on the path to achieve Vision Zero (zero deaths and serious injuries) by 2050.

- To reduce the rate of deaths from road crashes per 100,000 population by at least 50 per cent by 2030: to 689.
- To reduce the rate of serious injuries from road crashes per 100,000 population by at least 30 per cent by 2030: to 33,000 (interim target).

The draft Strategy supports strong governance, transparency and accountability by all levels of government, and adopts a social model approach to deliver road safety actions, mapping out a path to foster a road safety culture across Australian society.

It has three key themes: Safe Roads, Safe Vehicles and Safe Road Use. Speed management is embedded within all three themes. These themes represent a continued commitment to the safe system approach and aim to strengthen all elements of our road transport system through improvements under each.

Comments received will be taken into account in finalising the Strategy, which will be released alongside a five-year National Road Safety Action Plan in 2021. The National Action Plan will be shaped by the feedback you provide.

The Office of Road Safety will hold consultation meetings for interested stakeholders and members of the public to hear about the draft National Road Safety Strategy 2021-30. These meetings will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to ask questions about the draft Strategy.

To view the draft Strategy, make a submission or register for a consultation meeting, please visit [www.officeofroadsafety.gov.au/NRSS](http://www.officeofroadsafety.gov.au/NRSS). The consultation period closes on 23 March 2021.

### Road safety funding announced for \$2 billion Australian Government Road Safety Program

Approved funding for Tranche 1 of the Australian Government's \$2 billion Road Safety Program enables hundreds of road safety projects across Australia to be completed by June this year.

The funding will make a significant contribution to improved road safety outcomes, saving lives and reducing serious injuries on our roads. It will deliver improved road safety outcomes across the country, while also supporting construction and construction-related jobs, including a significant number in regional areas. Urban and peri-urban projects are focusing treatments on the prevention of

serious injuries for vulnerable road users, such as cycleways and pedestrian crossings. Upgrades to major highways such as the Albany Highway in Western Australia, the Capricorn and Bruce Highways in Queensland, and the Stuart Highway in the Northern Territory, will be rolled out fast providing safety improvements like lighting, shoulder sealing, audio tactile line markings, median treatments and safety barriers.

Funding under the program is offered to all states and territories on a 'use it or lose it' basis, in three six-month tranches.

To date, individual project announcements under Tranche 1 have been made in Western Australia, the Northern Territory, Queensland, the Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania and Victoria.

- Western Australia, where \$126.7 million will be provided by the Australian Government and \$31.7 million will be provided by the Western Australian Government for 62 projects to be rolled out across rural roads, more information can be found [here](#).
- The Northern Territory, where \$33.3 million will be provided by the Australian Government and \$13.7 will be provided by the Northern Territory Government for 43 projects across 150 kilometres of the network, more information can be found [here](#).
- Queensland, where \$226.3 million will be provided by the Australian Government and \$65.9 million will be provided by the Queensland Government for 88 projects, supporting approximately 950 direct and indirect jobs, more information can be found [here](#).
- The Australian Capital Territory, where \$3 million will be provided by the Australian Government and \$3 million will be provided by the ACT Government for vital safety treatments across the ACT, more information can be found [here](#).
- Tasmania, where \$33.3 million will be provided by the Australian Government and \$12.3 million will be provided by the Tasmanian Government, providing safety improvements across both regional and urban Tasmania, more information can be found [here](#).
- Victoria, where \$183.3 million will be provided by the Australian Government and \$62 million will be provided by the Victorian Government for 102 projects across 960 kilometres of Victoria's road network, supporting over 400 jobs, more information can be found [here](#).

## Surface Transport Policy welcomes Maree Bridger

The Office of Road Safety is very pleased to welcome our new First Assistant Secretary – Surface Transport Policy (STP), Maree Bridger.

Maree comes to us from Services Australia where she was previously General Manager, Customer Outcomes. In this role, Maree was responsible for leading the development and implementation of the agency's partnership and engagement strategy across federal government, state and territory governments, and other external stakeholders.

Maree is a leader with substantial experience in achieving outcomes in an environment of policy and legal complexity. She has held a number of roles including within the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, Australian Customs, and as a consultant.

Maree holds an Executive Master of Business Administration from the University of New South Wales and a Bachelor of Economics from Australian National University. She is also a Certified Practising Accountant.

Road Safety is a critically important issue. Maree brings with her a track record of achievement in her previous roles and is committed to reducing trauma on Australian roads to meet the Australian Government's target of Vision Zero by 2050.

Maree's appointment follows Jessica Hall's move to a new role as First Assistant Secretary of Major Transport and Infrastructure Projects within the Department. The Office of Road Safety would like to acknowledge Jess' hard work, passion and commitment to road safety outcomes.

The Department's organisational structure is available at:  
[www.infrastructure.gov.au/department/about/structure.aspx](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/department/about/structure.aspx).

## Statistical releases - road safety

The Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics (BITRE) has released its January 2021 Fatality Figures. There were 98 national road deaths reported for the month, which is 3.5 per cent lower than the five year average of 102 for January.

During the 12 months ended January 2021, there were 1,120 national road deaths reported. This represents a reduction of 2.9 per cent from the 12-month period ending January 2020.

This 12 month period's rate of annual deaths per 100,000 people has decreased to 4.4, which represents a reduction of 4 per cent from the 12 month period ending in January 2020.

For more information on road safety statistics, visit: [www.bitre.gov.au/statistics/safety](http://www.bitre.gov.au/statistics/safety).

## Vale Michael Apps

The Office of Road Safety is very saddened to hear of the passing of Michael Apps, Executive Director of the Bus Industry Confederation. Mr Apps passed away on 26 December 2020 after a period of illness.

Mr Apps was a constructive collaborator and deeply involved in the work of the Department, especially with the work of Surface Transport Policy. He was a strong advocate for the bus industry and regularly attended Transport and Infrastructure Council meetings with Ministers and industry stakeholders.

Early in his career, Mr Apps was employed at the Australian Trucking Association, firstly as Government Relations Manager, and later as Deputy CEO. He played a key role in the development of national trucking policy, including in the pursuit of reform of industry taxes and regulations.

Mr Apps' career achievements are outlined in the below article:

[www.busnews.com.au/industry-news/2101/vale-michael-apps-14-5-1964-%E2%80%93-26-12-2020](http://www.busnews.com.au/industry-news/2101/vale-michael-apps-14-5-1964-%E2%80%93-26-12-2020)

The Office of Road Safety offers its condolences to Mr Apps' family, friends, and colleagues.

## Office of Road Safety Events Calendar

Do you 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](mailto:officeofroadsafety@infrastructure.gov.au).

## Follow us on social media!

Use your influence to help us expand our reach beyond the established audience, to amplify the road safety message, achievements, events and opportunities. Follow the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications on social media and like/share our posts.

Twitter: [@infra\\_regional](https://twitter.com/infra_regional)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/departmentofinfrastructureaus/](http://www.facebook.com/departmentofinfrastructureaus/)

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/infrastructureau/mycompany/](http://www.linkedin.com/company/infrastructureau/mycompany/)

## 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](mailto:officeofroadsafety@infrastructure.gov.au)

[www.officeofroadsafety.gov.au](http://www.officeofroadsafety.gov.au)