



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Communications

Office of Road Safety Newsletter

May 2021

Road Safety Budget announcements

As part of the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to improving road safety for all Australians, an additional \$1 billion over 12 months has been committed to the Road Safety Program. This funding will include two additional six-month tranches, extending the program from July 2022 to June 2023 and encompassing 5 tranches in total.

This investment builds on the previous \$2 billion over 18 months, announced for the Road Safety Program as part of last year's budget. Now totalling \$3 billion, the Road Safety Program continues the ongoing commitment to improving road safety and reducing the number of deaths and serious injuries on our roads.

To date the Road Safety Program has allocated almost \$1 billion in tranche 1 for nearly 700 road safety projects. Under tranche 1, over 6,000 kilometres of road will be upgraded and it is expected to support over 5,700 direct and indirect jobs.

The Road Safety Program is delivering lifesaving road safety treatments on rural and regional roads and providing better protections for vulnerable road users.

For more information visit www.officeofroadsafety.gov.au/programs/infrastructure-programs

National Road Safety Strategy update

Following consultation on the draft National Road Safety Strategy 2021-30, a number of updates have been made to reflect feedback from the over 100 submissions received. The Office of Road Safety is continuing to work with state and territory Governments, the Australian Local Government Association, Austroads and other former Transport and Infrastructure Council (TIC) bodies to seek final endorsement for the strategy.

For more information, visit www.officeofroadsafety.gov.au/nrss

Yellow Ribbon National Road Safety Week 2021 is around the corner!

National Road Safety Week (NRSW) is just around the corner returning to the normal time of 16 – 23 May.

This year's event will be hosted by the South Australian Government, launching at the Adelaide Convention Centre. The event will be streamed live, enabling people around the country to get involved. You can participate in the launch online by using the [Registration link for the NRSW Live Launch Event](#).

Each day during Road Safety week will have a specific theme, opening with “remember the 1200” – remembering the 1200 lives lost on our roads and highways each year.

You can also keep an eye out for the lighting of significant buildings and monuments in yellow across Australia, a hallmark of National Road Safety Week.

How to get involved

- Take an online pledge to drive safely at www.roadsafetyweek.com.au
- Discuss driving safely with your family and friends
- Wear a yellow ribbon lapel badge or display a vehicle sticker available from (www.roadsafetyweek.net.au/road-safety-week)

For more information on the upcoming National Road Safety Week visit www.roadsafetyweek.com.au/

National Road Safety Week is facilitated by Safer Australian Roads and Highways (SARAH Group). The Australian Government is contributing \$100,000 in funding to SARAH Group under the \$4 million [Road Safety Awareness and Enablers fund](#).

For more information on the Office of Road Safety's programs, visit: www.officeofroadsafety.gov.au/programs



Fatality Free Friday

This year's [Fatality Free Friday](#) will be held on Friday 28th May.

Fatality Free Friday focuses public attention on road safety and encourages all road users to take care and drive safely. The Australian Government is a supporter of Fatality Free Friday delivering funding to [the Australian Road Safety Foundation](#) through the Australian Government's Road Safety Awareness and Enablers Fund. As well as our commitment to Fatality Free Friday, the Australian Government also supports the Foundation's [Rural Road Safety Month](#), which provides a platform for communities, corporations and individuals to take the pledge to 'drive to stay alive' and 'choose road safety'.

For more information on the Office of Road Safety's programs, visit: www.officeofroadsafety.gov.au/programs

Walk Safely to School Day

Friday 14 May 2021 is National Walk Safely to School Day. The annual campaign, now in its 22nd year, seeks to promote road safety, health, public transport and the environment by encouraging all primary school children, their parents and carers to walk safely and regularly to school.

Walk Safely to School Day is presented by the Pedestrian Council of Australia with support from the Australian, state, territory and local governments.

For more information on the campaign and to find out how you and your school can be involved, visit www.walk.com.au

Release of Safer Freight Vehicles Discussion Paper

On 27 April 2021, the Department released a Safer Freight Vehicles Discussion Paper, which identifies possible changes to the Australian Design Rules (ADRs) to facilitate an increased take up of safer and/or more efficient heavy freight vehicles in Australia. This is in line with [the National Road Safety Action Plan 2018-2020](#), and includes options for:

- vehicles with enhanced devices for indirect vision and/or monitoring devices to detect other road users
- wider vehicles meeting additional safety requirements
- vehicles with more efficient and/or productive axle configurations.

The Discussion Paper is available at www.infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/design/adr_comment.aspx and will remain open for a nine-week public comment period. Submissions should be emailed to standards@infrastructure.gov.au by close of business Wednesday **30 June 2021**.

Road vehicle standards video released

Preparations for the full implementation of the [Road Vehicle Standards \(RVS\) legislation](#) on 1 July 2021 are gaining momentum, with less than two months to go.

A short [overview video](#) about the new RVS framework was unveiled at the Caravan Industry Association of Australia's National Conference at the Gold Coast on 6 May 2021. The video encourages companies and individuals to create an account now in [ROVER](#) – the new online portal that supports applications for an RVS approval – to be ready for the 1 July 2021 start date.

New information on the role of [Model Reports](#) and [registered automotive workshops](#) (RAWs) have also recently been published. In preparation for the RVS legislation's full implementation, a range of detailed guides have been published, including for [vehicle type approvals](#), [vehicle type approval opt-in arrangements](#) and [low ATM trailers](#) (trailers with an [aggregate trailer mass](#) (ATM) ≤ 4.5 tonnes).

Applications to have a vehicle added to the [Specialist and Enthusiast Vehicles \(SEVs\) Register](#) and to become an [authorised vehicle verifier](#) (AVV) opened on 1 April. Applications for [component type approvals](#) and [testing facility](#) approvals are already open. Companies and individuals interested in applying are encouraged to [apply now](#) to prepare for the 1 July 2021 start.

First Road Safety Innovation Fund Project completed

The first of 13 projects funded under the Australian Government's \$12 million Road Safety Innovation Fund was completed in March 2021.

The Mobility and Accessibility for Children in Australia Inc. (MACA) Buckle Release project received \$54,170 in program funding, around 80 per cent of the total project cost. The funding has allowed MACA to partner with La Trobe University's Centre for Technology Infusion to research and design specifications and guidelines for seatbelt buckle covers. This research, design specification and set of guidelines aims to reduce accidental buckle release by vehicle occupants. The funding was also used to develop model policy on best practice use of buckle covers aiming to improve the knowledge of health professionals, disability providers and government policy makers on the use of buckle covers.

Further information on the model policy can be obtained by e-mailing: contact@macahub.org.

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e: officeofroadsafety@infrastructure.gov.au

w: www.officeofroadsafety.gov.au



ROAD SAFETY EVENTS

May

- 6 May – Roads Australia Spotlight on Safety
- 14 May – Walk Safely to School Day
- 16-23 May – National Road Safety Week
- 28 May – Fatality Free Friday

For more events, visit

www.officeofroadsafety.gov.au/events