



Office of Road Safety: Update Six – December 2019

Transport and Infrastructure Council Meeting Outcomes

The Office of Road Safety is pleased to share the [Communiqué](#) from the Transport and Infrastructure Council meeting held on Friday 22 November 2019. This was the first meeting with road safety as a standing agenda item for discussion among Transport Ministers and we are pleased to share the highlights of the meeting with you.

The main discussion centred around the next National Road Safety Strategy (NRSS). Council agreed to a framework for the Strategy, which will have a timeframe of 2021-2030. Safe System principles will be the foundation of this Strategy, which will be framed around three overarching themes: Safe Roads, Safe Vehicles, and Safe Road Use. Speed is seen as a vital component to be integrated across each of the three themes.

Safe Road Use will include consideration of all road users, including cyclists, motorcyclists and pedestrians. The NRSS will commit to ambitious, measureable national targets and policy priorities, based on the best available evidence, and move Australia towards the long-term goal of zero road crash deaths by 2050. Council also agreed to release the 2018 Safety Performance Indicators on the progress towards the current Road Safety Strategy. These are now online at <https://www.roadsafety.gov.au/performance/index.aspx>.

Council further agreed its final response to the Inquiry into the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 (available at <https://www.roadsafety.gov.au/nrss/inquiry.aspx>) and to publish an implementation paper in response to the recommendations. Strong action has been taken to date in response to the Inquiry, but the more complex recommendations will need ongoing and continued commitment as no single jurisdiction can reduce road trauma in isolation. The Office looks forward to working with all of you to progress the decisions taken by Ministers, in particular the development of the next NRSS and ensuring the intent of the recommendations is delivered in the best way possible. We will be in touch with further information about the process, and would welcome your views on how you would like the Office of Road Safety to work with you.

Recent Progress

November was another busy month for the Office of Road Safety. The official website is now live, providing an overview of the function and focus of the Office, and access to BITRE data and grants information, available at www.officeofroadsafety.gov.au. We welcome any feedback and comments on the site, which you can email to officeofroadsafety@infrastructure.gov.au.

We were also pleased to welcome the permanent head of the Office, Ms Gabby O'Neill, who has been meeting many of you through presentations at the Infrastructure Investment Forum and ALGA's

National Local Roads and Transport Congress 2019 in Hahndorf, South Australia. The presentation to the Infrastructure Investment Forum generated positive discussion on better integrating road safety into infrastructure investment and including Safe System principles in the design phases of road infrastructure investment. The presentation to the National Local Roads and Transport Congress concentrated on the focus and function of the Office of Road Safety in assisting local government to reduce road trauma. A consistent message in both of these presentations is: we need your commitment as part of the next National Road Safety Strategy, to deliver a step change in road safety. The Office is also developing a road safety event calendar. If you are raising awareness for road safety or scheduling a road safety event in 2020, let us know by emailing officeofroadsafety@infrastructure.gov.au.

Joint Select Committee on Road Safety

The Joint Select Committee on Road Safety, formed by federal parliament to provide connection and linkages to road safety across all areas of Government and chaired by Mr Llew O'Brien MP, has now finalised its Terms of Reference and has invited submissions by 31 January 2020. Sign up to track the progress of the Inquiry at https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Road_Safety.

Australian Automobile Association

We also recognise the work of the Australian Automobile Association, who hosted an inaugural Road Safety Research Program forum in Sydney in late November, in which the Office of Road Safety participated. The forum focused on fatigue and its impact on drivers. It also included a presentation from ANCAP on incorporating driver monitoring into their rating system. This is a great initiative of the motoring associations of Australia.

Christmas Holiday Road Safety Messaging

Finally, as the year closes, we draw your attention to BITRE's Dashboard on Australian Road Deaths during the Christmas Period (see <https://www.bitre.gov.au/dashboards/>). The Dashboard is a timely reminder that during the holiday season there are more people travelling on the road, increasing risk and exposure across the network. Many of you will be highlighting this with members and stakeholders, and we would be interested to hear from you what the focus of your messages will be.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Office or Gabby O'Neill should you wish to discuss these matters.

Attachments

- Attachment One – Response to the Inquiry into the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020



Final response and implementation arrangements for the *Inquiry into the National Road Safety Strategy (2018)*

The *Inquiry into the National Road Safety Strategy* made 12 key recommendations to improve road safety outcomes. Governments have resolved five of these recommendations, and will consider the remaining seven in the next National Road Safety Strategy (NRSS). This document constitutes the final implementation arrangements and response to the Inquiry.

#	Commitment	Status	Comments
1	Create strong national leadership by appointing a Cabinet minister with specific multi-agency responsibility to address the hidden epidemic of road trauma including its impact on the health system.	Agreed Completed	The Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Michael McCormack MP is the Cabinet Minister responsible for road safety. The Hon Scott Buchholz MP is Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport.
2	Establish a national road safety entity reporting to the Cabinet Minister with responsibility for road safety.	Agreed Completed	Office of Road Safety established in July 2019.
3	Commit to a minimum \$3 billion a year road safety fund.	Agreed in principle Ongoing	Government commits to invest an average of \$3 billion per year to road infrastructure that will have a safety benefit. Commonwealth will continue to work with other jurisdictions to identify priorities for investment and ensure that investment has regard to the safe system principles in accordance with the recently signed National Partnership Agreement
4	Set a vision zero target for 2050 with an interim target of vision zero for all major capital city CBD areas, and high-volume highways by 2030.	Agreed in principle Underway	Discussed at August 2019 TIC to be finalised through the development of the next NRSS.
5	Establish and commit to key performance indicators in time for the next strategy that measure and report how harm can be eliminated in the system, and that are published annually.	Agreed Underway	To be developed as part of the next NRSS.
6	Undertake a National Road Safety Governance Review by March 2019.	Agreed Completed	Governance Review completed and published in August 2019.



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7	Implement rapid deployment and accelerated uptake of proven vehicle safety technologies and innovation.	Agreed Underway	Discussed at August 2019 TIC. Commonwealth is investigating options to streamline regulatory processes. This will then be embedded into the next NRSS.
8	Accelerate the adoption of speed management initiatives that support harm elimination.	Agreed Underway	Options to be considered in the development of the next NRSS.
9	Invest in road safety focused infrastructure, safe system and mobility partnerships with state, territory and local governments that accelerate the elimination of high-risk roads.	Agreed Underway	Options to be considered in the development in the development of the next NRSS.
10	Make road safety a genuine part of business as usual within Commonwealth, state, territory and local government.	Agreed Underway	Discussed at August 2019 TIC, this will be a key feature of the next NRSS. Commonwealth Parliament has also established a Joint Select Committee on Road Safety.
11	Resource key road safety enablers and road safety innovation initiatives.	Agreed Completed	Funding allocated in 2019-20 Budget for Road Safety Innovation Fund and Road Safety Awareness and Enablers fund.
12	Implement life-saving partnerships with countries in the Indo-Pacific and globally as appropriate to reduce road trauma.	Agreed Underway	This is an action for the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth has engaged with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in the first instance, and has also provided sponsorship funding to the 2019 Australasian College of Road Safety for the Low and Middle Income Countries Scholarships Program