



Transport and Infrastructure Council

Road Safety Communiqué

HOBART

FRIDAY, 10 November 2017

The Transport and Infrastructure Council today discussed a range of road safety issues with Police Commissioners from around the country, including progress on key initiatives to address road trauma.

Council assessed the current trends in road safety and jurisdictions' recent progress in implementing the latest action plan covered by the National Road Safety Strategy. It was noted that after disappointing increases, the latest national data shows some improvement in the reduction in deaths from road crashes. There were 1,237 deaths in the 12 months to the end of September 2017, a 2.8 per cent decrease compared to the total for the 12 month period to the end of September 2016.

Council noted the considerable work in the past year, at all levels, to implement proven approaches to reduce road trauma and to investigate new solutions to emerging problems. This includes:

- an inquiry into improving the effectiveness of the National Road Safety Strategy initiated by the Commonwealth Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the Hon Darren Chester MP, which is to be completed in the first half of 2018;
- initial scoping projects looking at more effective approaches to roadside drug testing and reducing the risks of mobile phone use while driving; and
- continuing work on improving vehicle safety. It was notable that some important new safety standards came into full effect for all light vehicles on 1 November 2017, including Electronic Stability Control (ESC), Brake Assist Systems (BAS) and an international standard led by Australia to protect against side impact crashes - Pole Side Impact (PSI). Together, over a fifteen-year period of regulation these standards will save eleven people from being killed in road crashes annually and avoid 26 others being seriously injured.

REGIONAL AND REMOTE ROAD SAFETY

Council considered data presented by the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics on the distribution of road trauma across Australia, noting that 66 per cent of deaths occur in regional and remote areas. Council was pleased to note that the draft Action Plan calls for the development of a national remote road user safety strategy to address balancing speed limits with infrastructure standards, speed management,



licensing and training issues, the safety of vehicles, and alternative transport options for people who live in more remote areas.

ADDRESSING SERIOUS INJURIES

Council reaffirmed its commitment to a national approach to the measurement of serious injury through the pilot project being progressed by all jurisdictions through Austroads. Ministers agreed to support the efforts of all jurisdictions to ensure that the necessary approvals are given and data provided by March 2018. This work is critical for establishing a national serious injury reporting baseline to measure performance under the next road safety strategy; and to produce annual updates to support stronger national action to reduce deaths and serious injuries from road crashes.

DRUG-IMPAIRED DRIVING

Council considered the results of initial scoping work commissioned by the Commonwealth in relation to drug-impaired driving, and best practice approaches for the future development and improvement of roadside drug testing in Australia on a national basis. Possible measures include the development of a deterrence model which aims to maximise the degree of deterrence from roadside drug testing, better testing technology to complete roadside tests in a shorter time, and in the longer term, technology that would allow roadside confirmation with no further laboratory testing. Council agreed that a cross-jurisdictional working group would be formed, with police and road authorities, progress the development of best practice approaches to roadside drug testing.

NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY

Ministers considered the latest National Road Safety Strategy Implementation Status Report, which provides an update of the key statistical measures of progress for 2016 and a report on progress against the Action Plan for 2015-2017 and the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020.

The Council noted the considerable amount of activity in all jurisdictions to implement the 19 actions in the current National Road Safety Action Plan 2015–2017. The Council also noted that the 1,296 road crash deaths in 2016 represented an increase of 7.5 per cent relative to 2015. By the end of 2016 only 9% of the 30% target to reduce deaths had been achieved 6 years into the 10 year strategy. Deaths have reduced since the end of 2016 and the latest figures show a reduction of 13.3% from the Strategy baseline. The National Road Safety Strategy Implementation Status Report is available on the National Road Safety Strategy website at www.roadsafety.gov.au.

The Council considered the draft National Road Safety Action Plan for 2018-2020 and asked for further work to be undertaken. The Action Plan will focus governments' efforts on key national priority areas including systematically improving the uptake and use of technology, safety of road infrastructure, improving vehicle safety standards and promoting the uptake of safer vehicles especially by younger drivers, improving road safety



enforcement, building awareness and implementation of safer speeds, and improving safety in regional and remote areas.

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

The Hon Darren Chester MP	Minister for Infrastructure and Transport (Commonwealth)
The Hon Paul Fletcher MP	Minister for Urban Infrastructure (Commonwealth)
The Hon Melinda Pavey MP	Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight (New South Wales)
The Hon Luke Donnellan MP	Minister for Roads and Road Safety; Ports (Victoria)
The Hon Rita Saffioti MLA	Minister for Transport, Planning and Lands (Western Australia)
The Hon Stephen Mullighan MP	Minister for Transport and Infrastructure (South Australia)
The Hon Rene Hidding MP	Minister for Infrastructure (Tasmania)
The Hon Nicole Manison MLA	Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (Northern Territory)
The Hon Shane Rattenbury MLA	Minister for Justice and Consumer Affairs (Australian Capital Territory)
The Hon Meegan Fitzharris	Minister for Transport and City Services (Australian Capital Territory)
Mr David O'Loughlin	President (Australian Local Government Association)

