



Office of Road Safety

Update # 4
September 2019

Transport and Infrastructure Council

At the Transport and Infrastructure Council (TIC) meeting in August, federal and state and territory Ministers endorsed the **Office of Road Safety** to lead the drafting of the next *National Road Safety Strategy* and the national Action Plans that will sit under the Strategy, in consultation with the jurisdictions and other stakeholders. This work will also include the development of a performance framework supported by robust KPIs as recommended in the Inquiry. The **Office** will also report on the progress of the Strategy. We expect Ministers to agree the Strategy outline at its next meeting in November, with the final strategy to be agreed in late 2020.

Ministers also agreed that all investments in road infrastructure planning, design and construction will require the application of Safe System principles, and the inclusion of safety treatments to align with these principles, as well as publish the *Review of National Road Safety Governance Arrangements* (<https://www.roadsafety.gov.au/nrss/2019-governance-review.aspx>). They also committed to discussing road safety as a standing item at every TIC meeting going forward. This is a great opportunity to increase the visibility of road safety at a Ministerial level.

The communique can be found at:

https://www.transportinfrastructurecouncil.gov.au/communique/files/11th_Council_Communique_2_August_2019.pdf

Program Guidelines

The **Office** is in the process of finalising the program guidelines for the two road safety funds announced during the budget: the *Road Safety Awareness and Enablers Fund* and the *Road Safety Innovation Fund*. The Road Safety Awareness Guidelines will be released in the coming weeks. For the Road Safety Innovation Fund, program guidelines will be released later this year. The **Office** will send out a separate email when the guidelines are released for each program.

Vehicle Standards

Government is moving forward with work to improve safety standards for vehicles supplied to the Australian market. On 19 August, the Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Andrew Gee MP announced the release of a consultation Regulation Impact Statement on Autonomous Emergency Braking. This aligns to the National Road Safety Action Plan 2018-2020 and with Government's commitment to improve the uptake of new safety technology in the Australian new vehicle fleet. The consultation RIS is available at https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/design/adr_comment.aspx and submissions will be accepted until **COB on 4 October 2019**. Stakeholders are encouraged to participate in this process.

BITRE Data Update

The **Office** is excited to draw your attention to recent dashboards released by the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE) (see <https://www.bitre.gov.au/dashboards/>). BITRE has recently released dashboards that breakdown the Roadside Drug Testing (in July) and Random Breath Testing (in August) across Australia's states with data from 2018.

Federal Parliamentary Committee on Road Safety

Also in August, a *Joint Select Committee on Road Safety* was formed by federal parliament to provide connection and linkages to road safety across all areas of Government. The Committee will be chaired by Mr Llew O'Brien MP. The Ministers' media release can be found here: <https://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/mccormack/media-release/new-committee-drive-road-safety-action>, and a sign-up to track the progress of the Inquiry, is available here: https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Road_Safety. It is expected Terms of Reference will be finalised shortly.

Road Funding update - Black Spots

As part of the Road Safety Package announced in the 2019-20 Budget, the Australian Government committed an additional \$50 million per year from 2019-20 to the Black Spot Program. Community groups, associations, road user groups, industry and individuals can all nominate a Black Spot – check out https://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure_investment/black_spot/how_to_nominate_a_black_spot.aspx for more information.

Roundtables

The **Office of Road Safety** is running a number of roundtables over coming months. The first Roundtable on 2 September in Sydney was hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Michael McCormack MP and the Hon Scott Buchholz MP, Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport. Mr Llew O'Brien MP, Chair of the Joint Select Committee on Road Safety also attended.

The roundtable had a focus on the new data sets the BITRE has been able to collate, with a call to industry to provide further data sources.

Over the next few weeks, the **Office** will also be collating a calendar of road safety events. If you would like to list an event, please email roadsafetystrategy@infrastructure.gov.au

A schedule for future roundtables will also be available soon.

