

AusRAP spots the differences

Safety features of roads are not always obvious, but AusRAP shows how high risk roads can be made safe.



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Higher risk



Undivided roads with only one lane in each direction make it riskier to overtake. Freeways with wide medians and safety barriers can handle much higher traffic volumes with virtually no chance of a head-on crash.

Lower risk



Roadside killers like trees, poles and steep embankments can turn what would be a minor crash into a killer. If these hazards can't be removed, safety barriers can dramatically lower the risk.



If a driver moves out of their lane, a sealed shoulder offers extra space to recover. Unforgiving of simple mistakes, unsealed or narrow shoulders can cause a vehicle to run off the road or veer into oncoming traffic.



Roads with lots of intersections are less safe because of an increased risk of brutal side impact crashes with cross traffic. Low risk intersections have separate turning lanes and are clearly visible day and night. The best intersections have freeway style on and off ramps.



Safer Roads SAVE LIVES:

Star Ratings for the AusLink National Network



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Star Ratings for the AusLink National Network

Star ratings	Percentage of network
★★★★★	0%
★★★★☆	42%
★★★☆☆	55%
★★☆☆*	3%
★☆☆☆☆	0%



What is AusRAP?

The Australian Road Assessment Program (AusRAP) is a sister program to the Australasian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP), which crash-tests new cars and awards them stars for safety. AusRAP produces maps showing the risk of road crashes that cause death and life-threatening injury and rates roads for safety. It highlights improvements that could be made to roads to reduce the likelihood of crashes — and to make those that do happen survivable.

AusRAP has two standard protocols — risk mapping of casualty crashes and star ratings. Colour coded risk maps use real crash and traffic flow data to illustrate a road’s history of safety by measuring and mapping casualty crash rates along a route.

AusRAP star ratings (shown in this brochure) involve a “drive through” inspection in vehicles specially equipped to capture video images of the roads. From this information, analysts assess design elements which are known to have an impact on the likelihood of a crash and its severity, such as lane and shoulder width, whether or not the road is divided, and the presence of safety barriers. Between 1 and 5 stars are awarded to roads depending on the level of safety which is ‘built-in’ to the road.

Why has AusRAP been formed?

By giving roads across Australia a safety rating, AusRAP will make the risk of death and injury on different roads more meaningful and stimulate public discussion — and action. It will help road

users understand how risk can vary according to changes in the road environment. Risk-aware road users will be more likely to adapt their driving to reduce their risk of a crash.

The ratings will also provide road planners and engineers with vital benchmarking information to show them how well, or badly, a particular road performs compared with others.