

MOTORING MATTERS *Factsheet*

National Road Safety Strategy

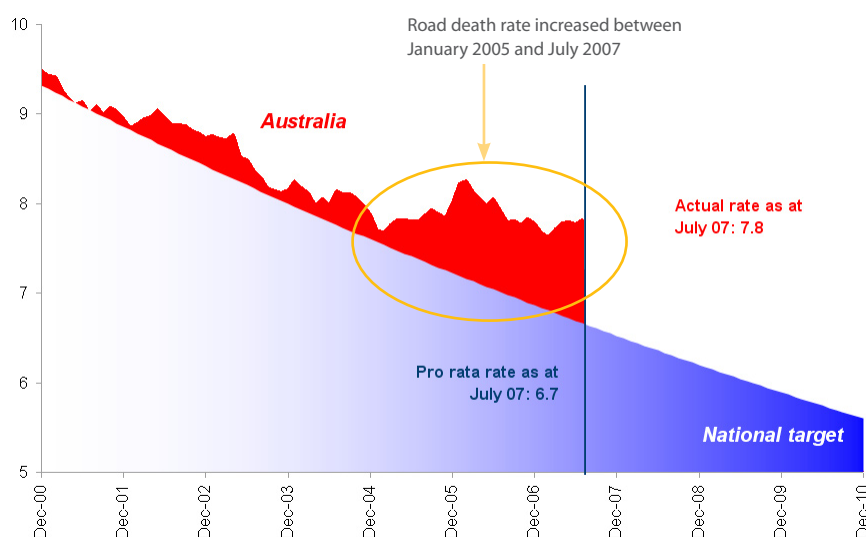


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Current situation

- ▶ Road crashes exact an enormous toll on society. They leave permanent physical and mental scars on the individuals, friends and families involved.
- ▶ In 2006, 1,601 people were killed on Australian roads and more than 22,000 people were hospitalised with serious injuries. That equates to around five deaths and 60 serious injuries *every day*.¹
- ▶ Road crashes are also an extraordinary drain on the Australian economy, costing some \$17 billion a year — or 2.3 per cent of Gross Domestic Product — in terms of hospital care, emergency services, legal fees and lost productivity.²
- ▶ In an attempt to address the road safety problem, Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments released the National Road Safety Strategy in November 2000. The target of the Strategy, which came into effect in January 2001, is to reduce Australia's road fatality rate per 100,000 population from 9.3 to no more than 5.6 in 2010 — a 40 per cent reduction.³ Figure 1 below shows the national death rate and State and Territory rates are shown over the page.
- ▶ Six and a half years after the ten-year Strategy was introduced, Australia is failing to achieve its target. The national road death rate has reduced by just 16 per cent, well short of the 40 per cent target. Alarming, between January 2005 and July 2007 the road death rate actually *increased*.

Figure 1 Road death rate versus national target (deaths per 100,000 population)



Constituent
Member

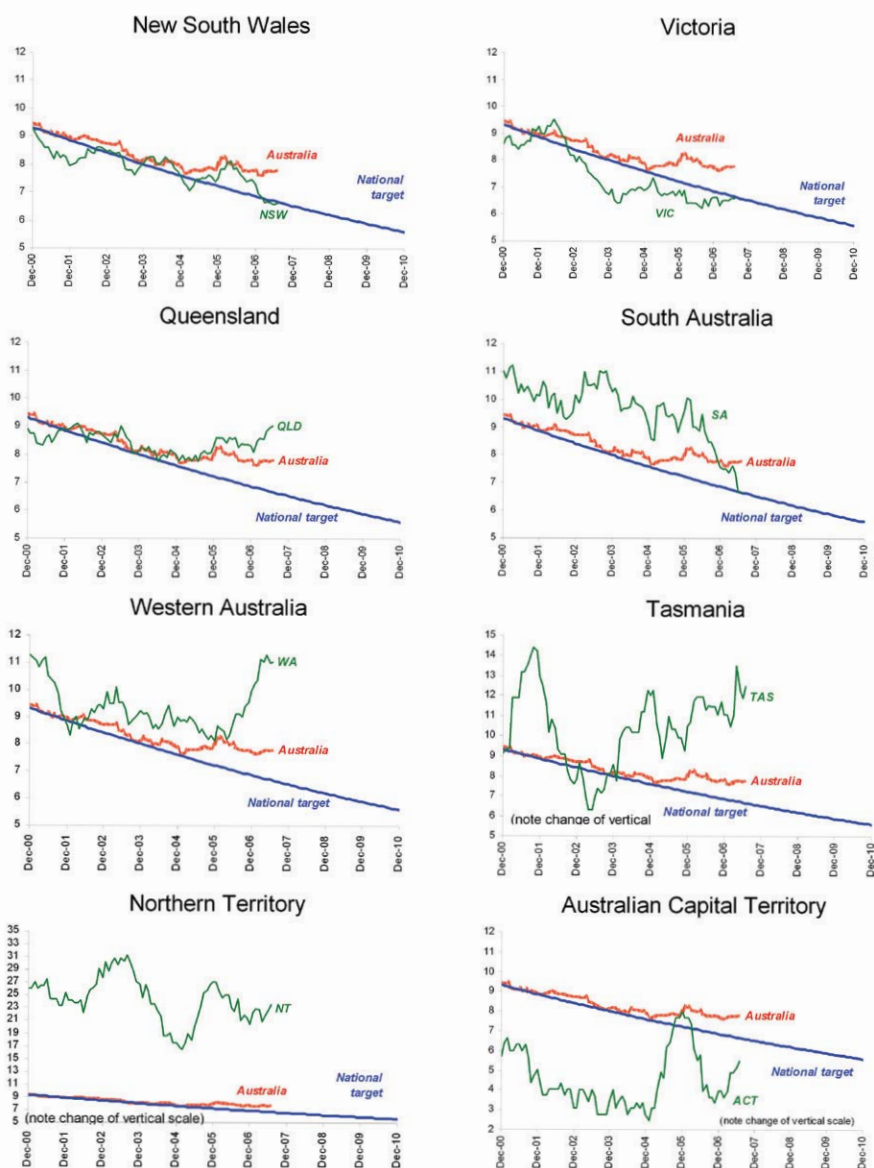


What AAA wants

- ▶ Research underpinning the National Road Safety Strategy shows that the biggest gains in safety will come by investing in safer road infrastructure. AAA has called on the government to make greater investments in fixing Black Spots and in building safety into the AusLink National Network (see separate fact sheets).

Figure 2 Road death rates in the States and Territories versus national target (deaths per 100,000 population)

State and Territory Progress against the National Road Safety Strategy Target Road deaths per 100,000 population



¹ Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB).

² Connelly, L.B. and Supangan, R., 2006. "The economic costs of road crashes: Australia, States and Territories." *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, Vol. 38 No. 6.

³ Australian Transport Council (ATC). National Road Safety Strategy 2001-2010. <http://www.atcouncil.gov.au/documents/atcnrns.aspx>

