

Eyes on the Road Ahead

In June 2004 the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services tabled its report on the inquiry into National Road Safety, titled "Eyes on the Road Ahead".

The report makes 38 recommendations that include incorporating injury statistics as well as fatality statistics in future action plans, national coordination of safety campaigns, expanding the Blackspot program and that the Government should only purchase vehicles with state of the art safety features.

Speaking at the recent ALGA Local Roads Congress, Lauchlan McIntosh of the AAA said of the report "most of the recommendations are simple, based on common sense and require little or no new expenditure."

"The report represents a real opportunity for politicians from all parties to reinvigorate the debate in Australia, to pose road safety not as a luxury item, but as an imperative" Mr McIntosh said.

Unfortunately, both the Government and opposition have had little to say on the report as yet.

ALGA National Local Roads Conference

In July 2004, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) held its annual National Local Roads Congress. More than 500 delegates from around Australia gathered to discuss topics including local roads funding, the Federal Government's Land Transport Plan, AusLink, and road safety.

Lauchlan McIntosh took the opportunity to acknowledge the efforts being made by Local Government to improve road safety, but also urged delegates to do more, saying "road safety is a preventable health issue, and should be thought of as such."

An important outcome of the Congress was that delegates strongly urged the Australian Government to continue the national *Black Spot* program beyond 2005/06, with a 25% funding increase.



Delegates at the 2004 ALGA Roads Congress had the opportunity to inspect the TAC SafeCar.

ANCAP

On 20 July 2004 ANCAP released its results for 7 new cars. The highest scores achieved by recently released new models were the Mazda3 and Mitsubishi Outlander each with 4 stars. The Hyundai Accent, Nissan Pulsar and Toyota Echo scored 3 stars and the Kia Rio 2 stars. ANCAP is supported by all Australian and New Zealand motoring clubs and by all Australian State Governments and the New Zealand Government. The latest ANCAP results can be obtained by going to the AAA website (www.aaa.asn.au) and clicking on "Crash Results" and then "ANCAP".

Coming Events

Sydney's Roads – Heading in the Right Direction? Australian Road Federation (ARF). Wednesday 4 August, 12 noon to 3.00pm, Sydney. For more details contact visit www.roads.org.au/sydlunch.htm or ring Rachael Rooney on 03 9755

SaferRoads regional launch in Darwin on 4 August Darwin Central Hotel between 12.30pm and 2.30pm.

National Road Safety Strategy (NRSS) Panel meeting 12 August, Sydney

Topics will include 2005/2006 NRSS action plan, recent HoR inquiry report on Road Safety (Eyes on the Road Ahead) and the Vehicle Advertising Code.

Please let us know of any similar events or that have a road safety flavor that could be of interest to SaferRoads supporters and we will mention it in coming Newsletters or if time is short distribute it by email.