

Benchmarking the performance of the National Road Safety Strategy

AUSTRALIAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2016



Key changes

since December 2015 report

There has been an increase in the number of road fatalities in the March 2016 quarter compared to the December 2015 quarter. The 12 months to March 2016 also recorded an increase in fatalities compared with the same period in 2015. The increase in fatalities is concerning, and the data indicate that the NRSS target for reduction in fatalities may not be achieved. The ability to achieve the targeted reductions in serious injuries is also unclear.

Jurisdiction	Status:	
	Previous	Current
National	GREEN	RED
New South Wales	GREEN	RED
Victoria	RED	RED
Queensland	GREEN	GREEN
South Australia	RED	RED
Western Australia	AMBER	RED
Tasmania	AMBER	AMBER
Northern Territory	RED	RED
Australian Capital Territory	RED	RED

Analytical key

GREEN

On track to meet or exceed NRSS target. Reduction in road crash fatalities equal to or greater than the rate required to achieve NRSS target.

AMBER

Currently ahead of (notional) target but faster rate of improvement required to achieve NRSS target by 2020.

RED

Road crash fatalities are above the notional NRSS target.

Road user groups

Status:

	Status:	
	Previous	Current
Drivers	GREEN	RED
Passengers	GREEN	GREEN
Pedestrians	RED	RED
Motorcyclists	RED	RED
Cyclists	RED	RED

Note: Data used to produce this information have been sourced from the Australian Road Deaths Database: www.bitre.gov.au/statistics/safety/fatal_road_crash_database.aspx, accessed on 14 April 2016 and *Road Deaths Australia — March 2016* monthly bulletin ISSN 1449-1168.

Australia's road toll:

March 2016

The Australian Automobile Association's (AAA) Benchmarking of the National Road Safety Strategy (NRSS) report for the March 2016 quarter shows Australia is going the wrong way on road safety.

This report measures progress against the NRSS target of reducing road deaths by at least 30 per cent by 2020. All Australian governments committed to this strategy in 2011.

While some progress has been achieved in reducing road deaths, at the national level our rating has gone from green last quarter to red this quarter, signifying the 2020 target is slipping further away.

In the year to March 2016, there were 1,255 fatalities on Australian roads, an increase from 1,129 a year earlier. There were 324 fatalities in the quarter ending March 2016, an increase on 315 in the previous quarter.

New South Wales reported the largest reversal in progress with 368 road deaths in the past 12 months, compared to 295 deaths in the previous year.

Victoria has a fatality rate of 4.47 per 100,000 population. If all jurisdictions had this fatality rate an extra 190 Australians would have survived the past 12 months.

As Australians we must each redouble our efforts to reduce the road toll and to get ourselves back on track to meet the NRSS target. And whilst road safety is very much a responsibility for individuals, governments must also play a significant role.

It is vital that governments find new ways to fund safer road infrastructure and invest in measures like public transport to take the pressure off roads and motorists.

It is also vital that important road safety programs such as keys2drive and the Australasian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP) continue to be funded by the Australian Government.

Preliminary results of research by the University of NSW showed keys2drive participants were 40 per cent less likely to be involved in a crash that causes moderate to serious injury in their first six months on P-plates.

AAA analysis suggests that more than \$47 million in medical, vehicle and productivity costs have been saved across Australia for a nation-wide investment of just \$25 million in keys2drive.

The continuation of keys2drive can be expected to save the Australian economy around \$40 million over the next four years, for an investment of just \$20 million over the same period. The AAA hopes the Australian Government will continue to support this important program.



Michael Bradley

Chief Executive
Australian
Automobile
Association

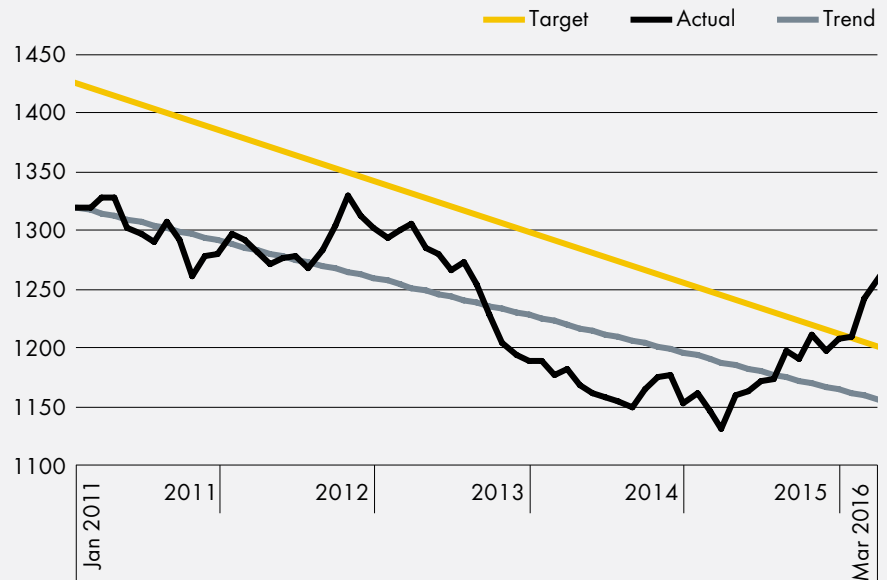
National snapshot

RED

The NRSS aims to achieve a reduction of at least 30 per cent in road fatalities and serious injuries by 2020. Since the road safety strategy commenced, we have seen a 7.2 per cent decline in the 12-month road toll, which is behind the rate required to achieve the 2020 target.

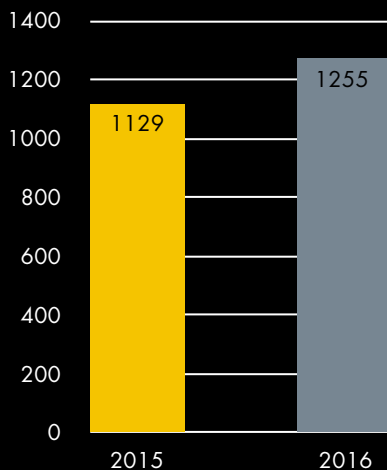
In 2015, there were 1,206 fatalities on Australian roads, an increase from 1,151 in the previous calendar year. There were 324 fatalities in the quarter ending March 2016, a 2.9 per cent increase on the 315 recorded in the quarter ending December 2015.

Australia fatalities per annum



Comparative performance past 12 months

Yearly comparison Deaths to March



There has been an 11.2 per cent increase in the road toll in the 12 months ending March 2016, compared with a year earlier.

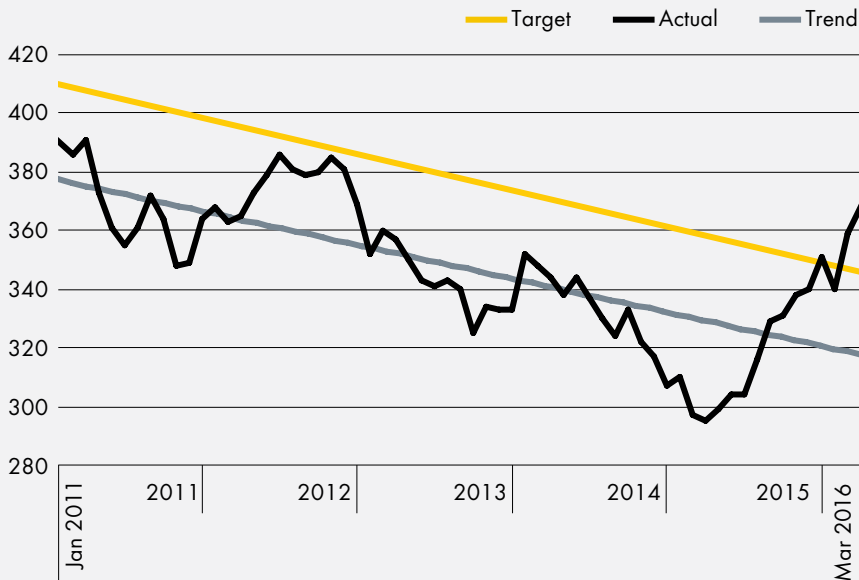


Analysis:

states and territories

New South Wales fatalities per annum

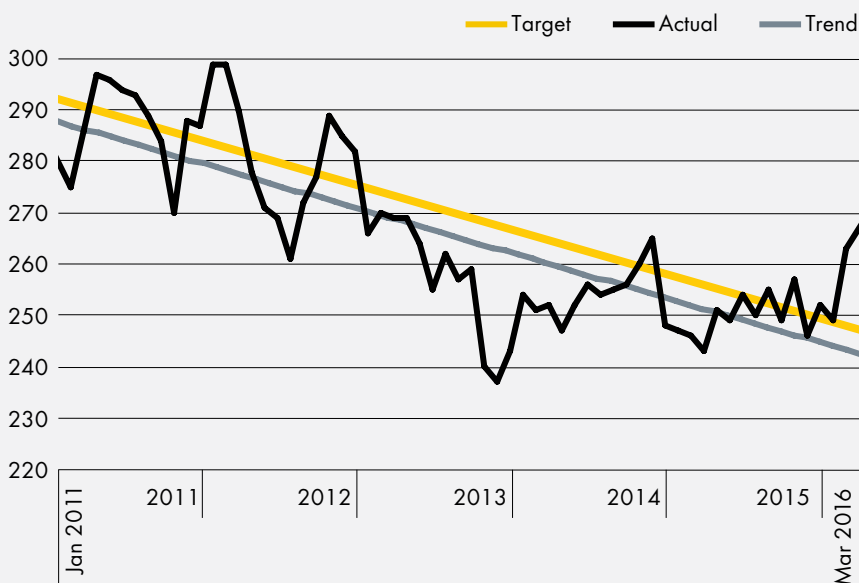
RED



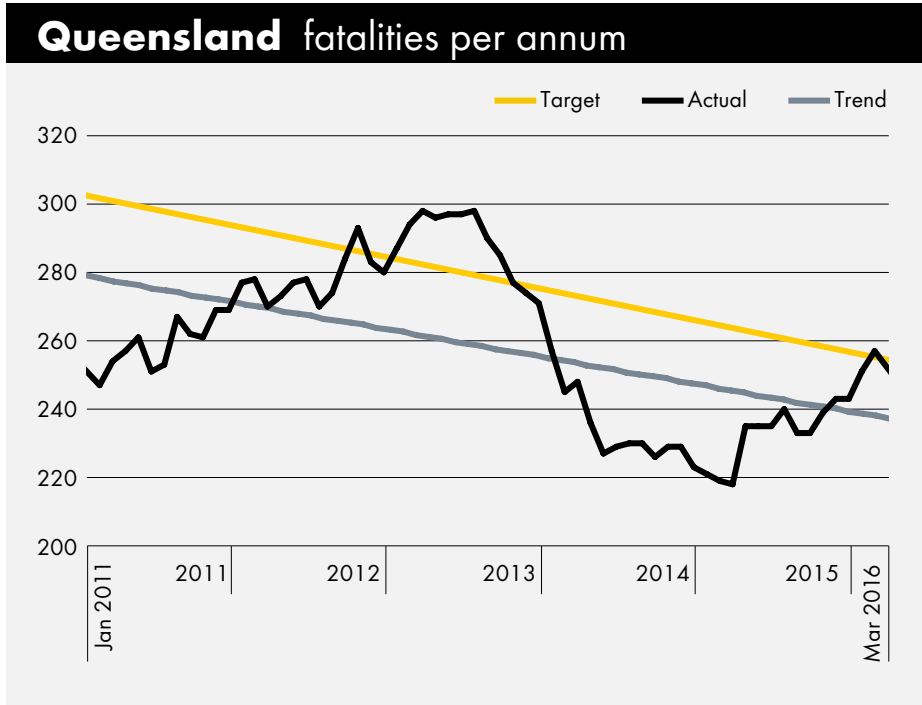
- 368 road deaths occurred in the 12 months ending March 2016, compared to 295 deaths in the same period in 2015.
- An increase of 24.7 per cent.

Victoria fatalities per annum

RED

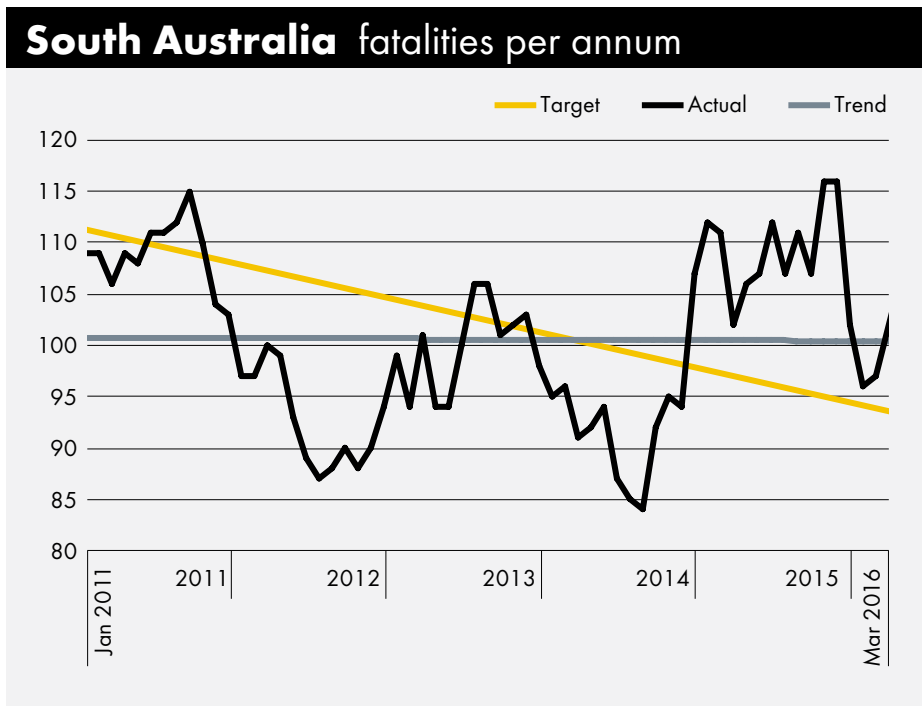


- In the past 12 months, Victoria recorded 267 deaths, compared to 243 deaths in the same period in 2015.
- This is a 9.9 per cent increase on a year earlier.



GREEN

- In the past 12 months, 252 people have died on Queensland roads, compared to 218 deaths in the same period in 2015.
- A 15.6 per cent increase on a year ago.

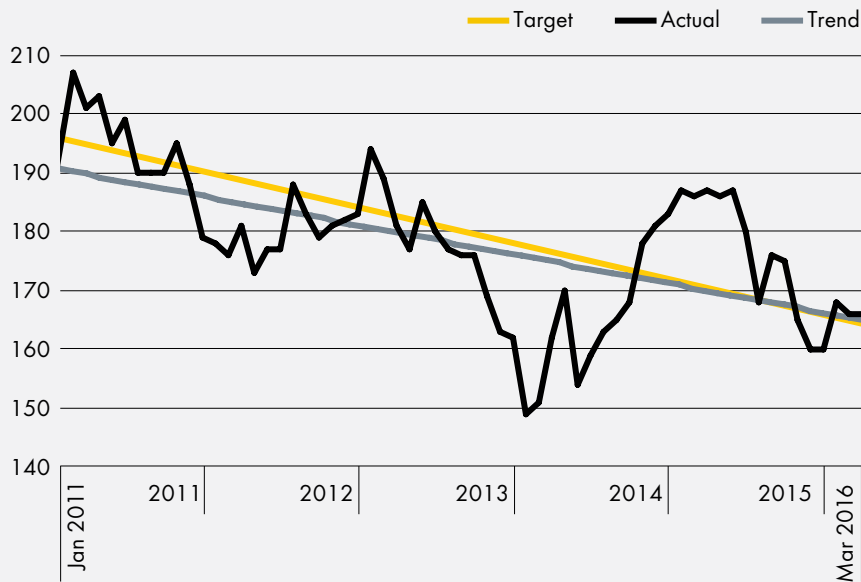


RED

- In the past 12 months, 102 deaths occurred on South Australian roads, equal to the number of deaths in the same period in 2015.
- Zero decrease over the past year.

Western Australia fatalities per annum

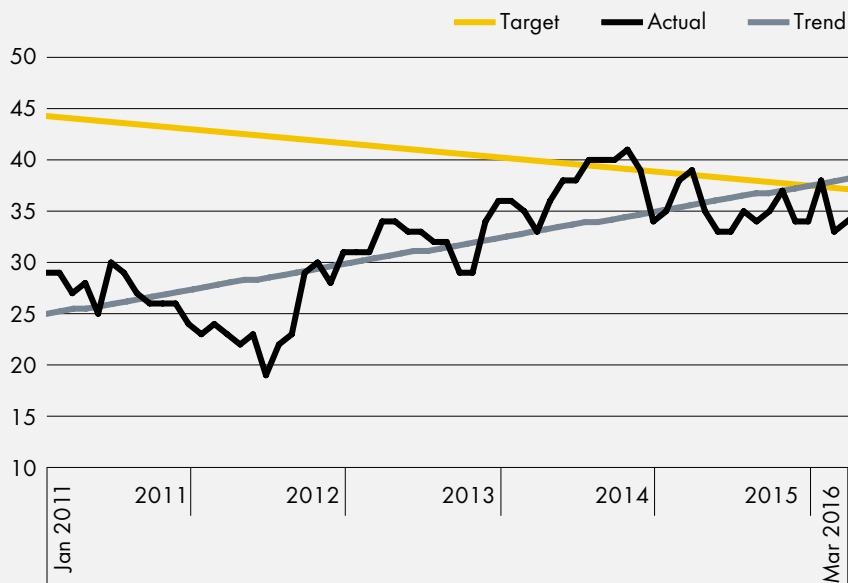
RED



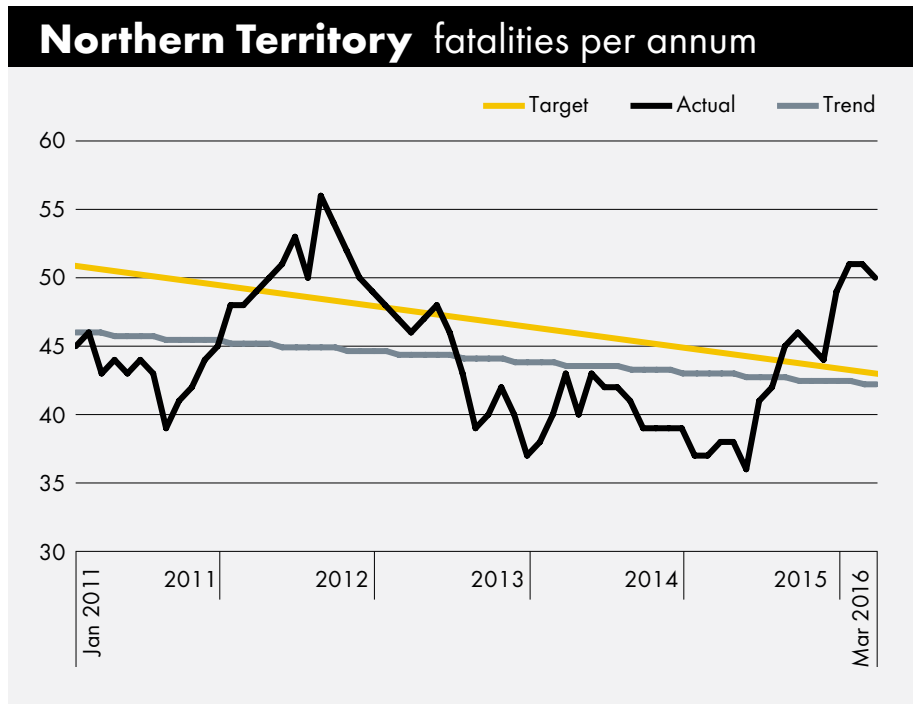
- In the past 12 months, 166 people were killed on Western Australian roads, down from 187 over the same period in 2015.
- This is an 11.2 per cent decrease on a year earlier.

Tasmania fatalities per annum

AMBER

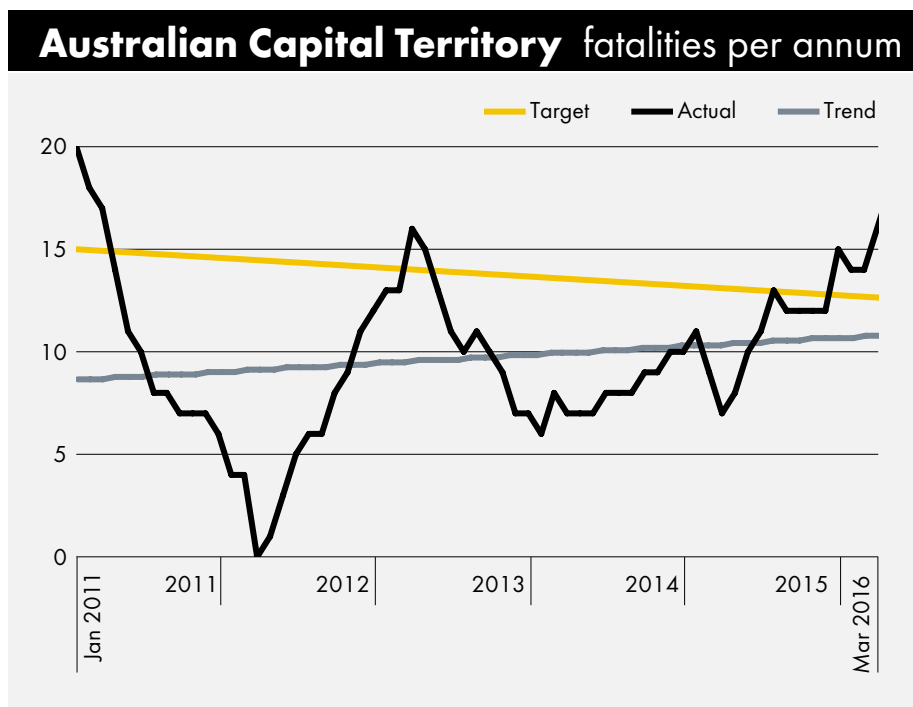


- In the past 12 months, 34 people died on Tasmanian roads, compared to 39 deaths in the same period in 2015.
- This is a 12.8 per cent reduction on a year earlier.



RED

- In the past 12 months, 50 people died on Northern Territory roads, up from 38 in the same period in 2015.
- This is a 31.6 per cent increase on a year earlier.



RED

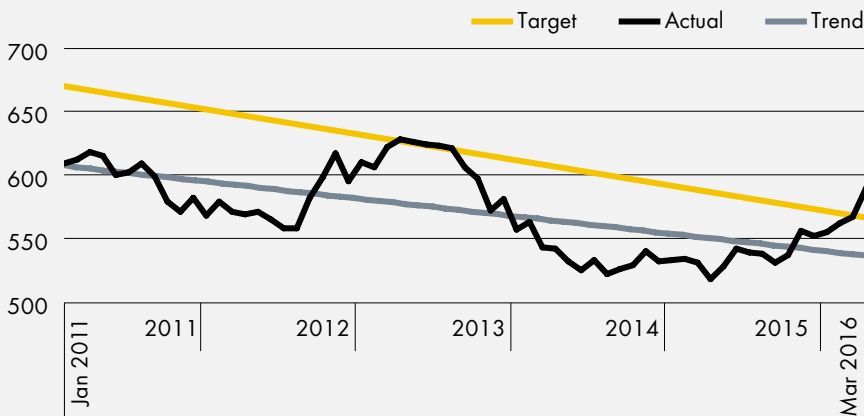
- The ACT recorded 16 deaths in the past 12 months, compared to 7 in the same period in 2015.
- This is a 128.6 per cent increase on a year earlier.

Analysis:

Road user groups

Drivers fatalities per annum

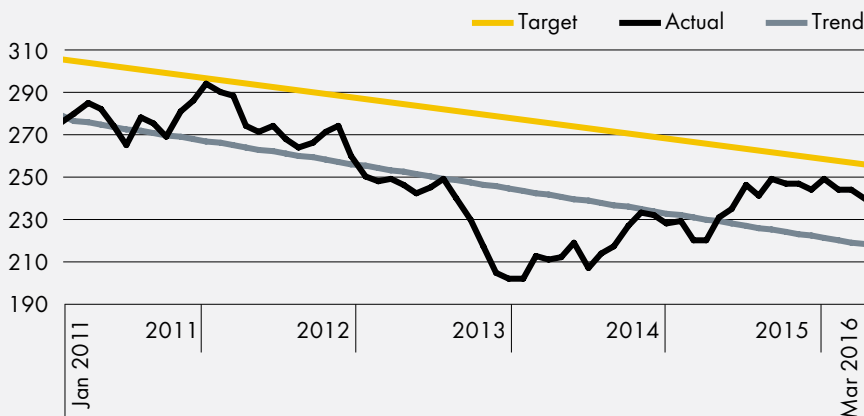
RED



- There have been 589 driver deaths on Australian roads in the past 12 months, an increase from 518 that occurred in the corresponding period in 2015.
- An increase of 13.7 per cent over the past year.

Passengers fatalities per annum

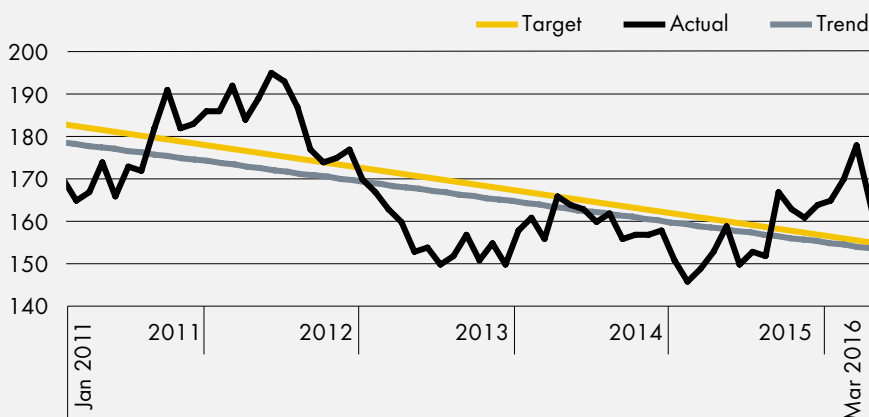
GREEN



- In the past 12 months, 240 deaths on Australian roads have been passengers, compared with 220 deaths over the same period in 2015.
- This is an increase of 9.1 per cent.

Pedestrians fatalities per annum

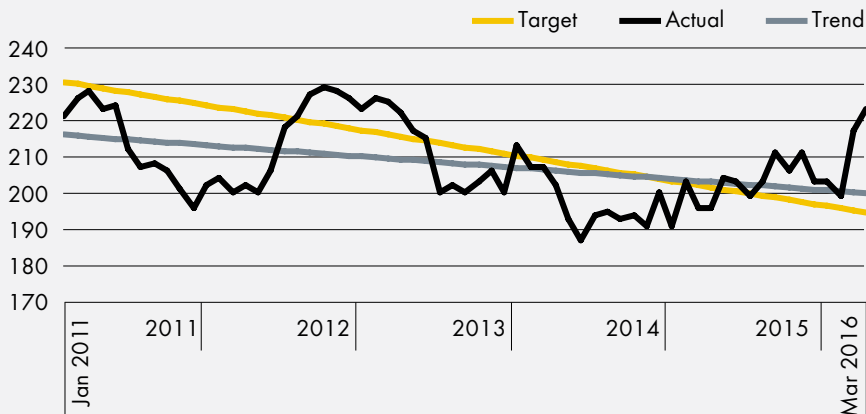
RED



- There have been 165 pedestrian deaths on Australian roads over the past 12 months, an increase from 153 deaths over the same period in 2015.
- This represents an increase of 7.8 per cent.

Motorcyclists fatalities per annum

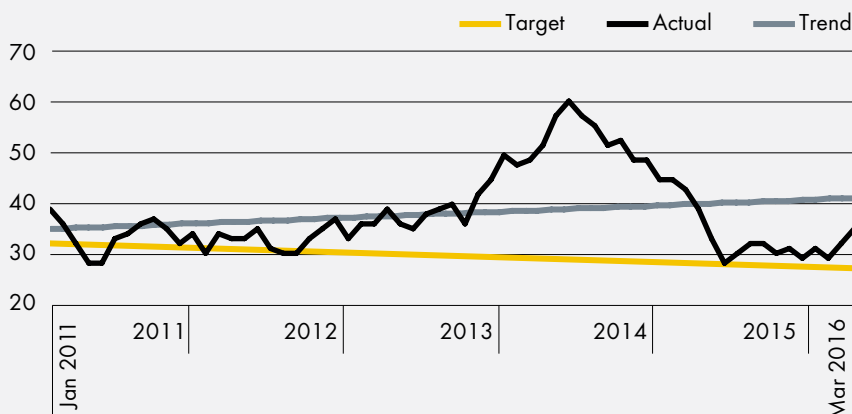
RED



- There have been 223 motorcyclist deaths on Australian roads over the past 12 months, an increase from 196 over the same period in 2015.
- This is a 13.8 per cent increase.

Cyclists fatalities per annum

RED



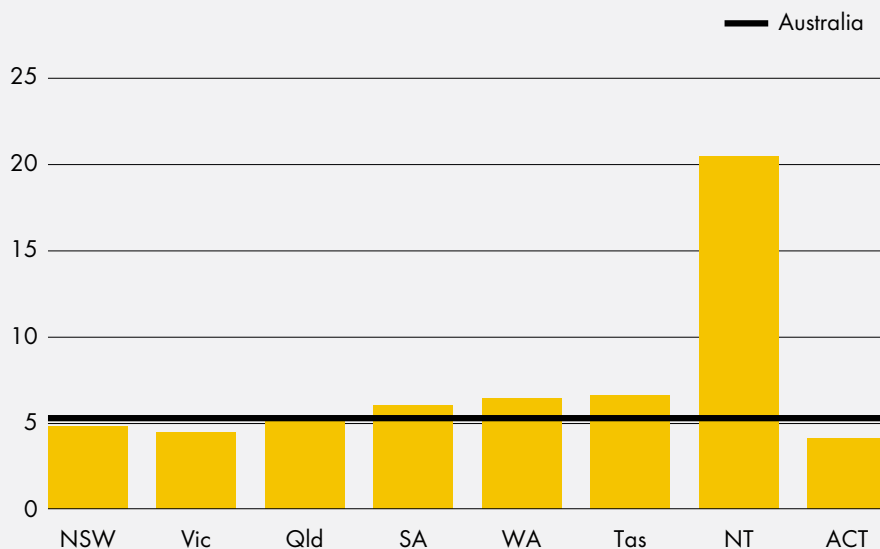
- 35 cyclists have died on Australian roads over the past 12 months, a decrease from 39 deaths over the same period in 2015.
- This is a decrease of 10.3 per cent.

Analysis:

Road deaths by population

Annual road deaths per 100,000 population

12 months to March 2016



The National Road Safety Strategy does not include a target for the fatality rate based on population, but it is still a useful indicator to determine priority areas. The data show that the most populous states of New South Wales and Victoria have fewer road deaths in proportion to their population than the other jurisdictions (with the exception of the ACT), while more attention is needed to reduce deaths in the Northern Territory, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia.

Potential lives saved

Jurisdiction*	FATALITIES			
	Number	per 100 k population	at 4.47 per 100 k population	Potential lives saved
NSW	368	4.81	342	26
VIC	267	4.47	267	0
QLD	252	5.26	214	38
SA	102	6	76	26
WA	166	6.39	116	50
TAS	34	6.57	23	11
NT	50	20.45	11	39
ACT	16	4.08	16	0
National	1,255	5.26	1,065	190

If the other jurisdictions were able to achieve the Victorian fatality rate of 4.47 per 100,000 population, 190 lives could be saved nationally, with 50 in Western Australia, 38 in Queensland, 26 in South Australia and 39 in the Northern Territory.

* Jurisdictions with a rate currently lower than 4.47 would not be anticipated to increase the number of fatalities.



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