



# **BENCHMARKING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY**



Australian  
Automobile  
Association

March 2017





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## Key Changes

# Key Changes Since December 2016 Report

There has been a decrease in the number of road fatalities from the December 2016 quarter to the March 2017 quarter. The 12 months to March 2017 recorded a decrease in fatalities compared with the same period in 2016. The decrease in fatalities is positive, however the data still indicates 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.

### 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.

### Current National Status

**Red**



NSW	Red
VIC	Red
QLD	Red
SA	Amber
WA	Red
TAS	Amber
NT	Red
ACT	Amber

### Previous National Status

**Red**



NSW	Red
VIC	Red
QLD	Red
SA	Amber
WA	Red
TAS	Red
NT	Red
ACT	Amber

### User Groups

#### Previous

#### Current

User Groups	Previous	Current
Drivers	Red	Red
Passengers	Green	Green
Pedestrians	Red	Red
Motorcyclists	Red	Red
Cyclists	Red	Amber

Note: The 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](http://www.bitre.gov.au/statistics/safety/fatal_road_crash_database.aspx), accessed on 13 March 2017 and Road Deaths Australia March 2017 monthly bulletin ISSN 1449-1168.

# Australia's Road Toll: March 2017

## Small reduction in road deaths nowhere near enough to reach target

The Australian Automobile Association's (AAA) Benchmarking of the National Road Safety Strategy (NRSS) report tracks 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.

The report finds that in the year to March 2017, 1,240 lives have been lost on our roads, 9 fewer than the same time last year. This is a decrease of just 0.7 per cent.

This tiny decrease in the rate at which Australians are dying on our roads is no cause for celebration, given road deaths and injuries remain historically high, and well above NRSS target levels.

In the year to March 2015, 1,129 were killed on our roads. Whilst still too many, this is 111 fewer than in the same period two years later.

The trauma on our roads extends further than fatalities. In addition to those killed around 42,000 Australians are seriously injured on our roads each year<sup>1</sup>. That's 800 Australians maimed on our roads each week in addition to the 24 killed.

Even with the small decrease in the number of road deaths over the past year, Australia remains unlikely to reach NRSS goals of reducing road deaths and trauma by at least 30 per cent by 2020.

At a time when new vehicles and roads have never been safer, we need to understand why 40 years of road safety improvement is being reversed.

As part of its 2017-18 Budget Submission, the AAA has called on the Australian Government to establish an inquiry into the causes of the increase in road deaths and to better understand the trends in serious injuries.

Such an inquiry is an important, urgent, and low cost step the Government can take towards reducing the human suffering, and the billions in annual economic costs, caused by road crashes.



**Michael Bradley**

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Chief Executive  
Australian Automobile Association

<sup>1</sup> Productivity Commission: report on government services Table 6A.37 available at: <http://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2017/justice/police-services#results>

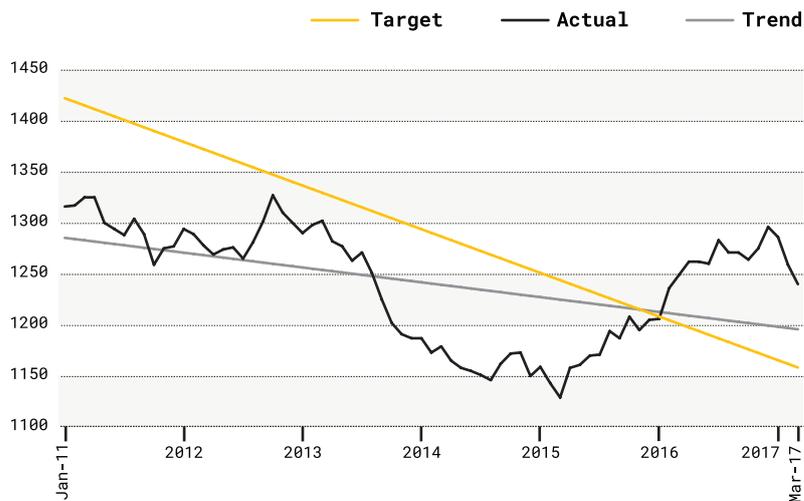


## Section One

# National Overview

**National (Australia) fatalities per annum**

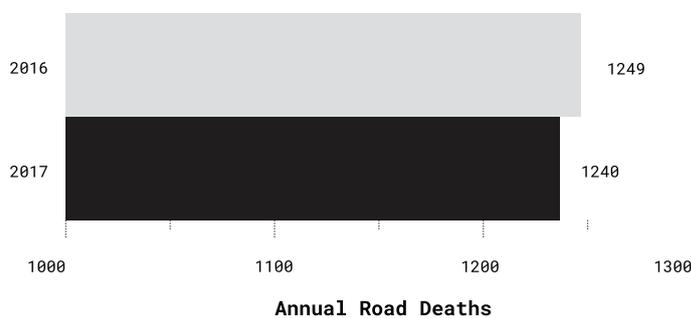
**Red**



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 an 8.3 per cent decline in the 12-month road toll, which is lower than the rate required to achieve the 2020 target.

In the 12 months ended March, there were 1,240 fatalities on Australian roads, a decrease from 1,249 in the previous calendar year. There were 263 fatalities in the quarter ending March 2017, a 22.6 per cent decrease on the 340 recorded in the quarter ending December 2016.

**Comparative Performance – Past 12 Months**



**Yearly Comparison – Deaths to March**

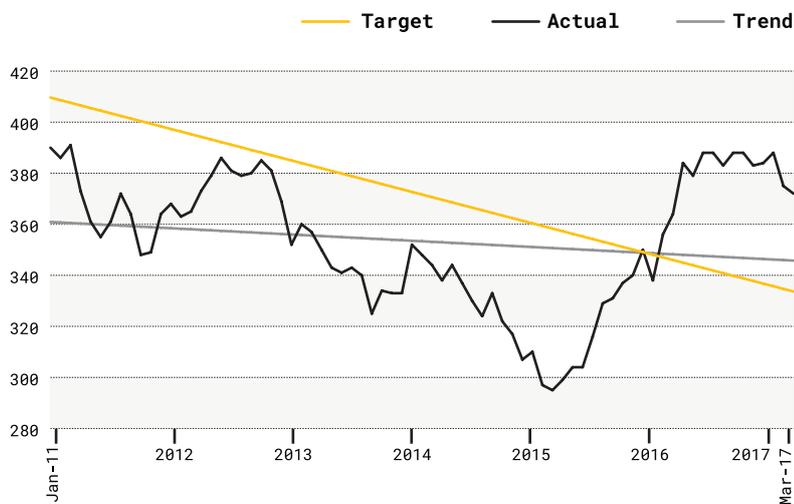
There has been a 0.7 per cent decrease in the road toll in the 12 months ending March 2017, compared with a year earlier.

## Section Two

# Analysis: States and Territories

New South Wales fatalities per annum

Red

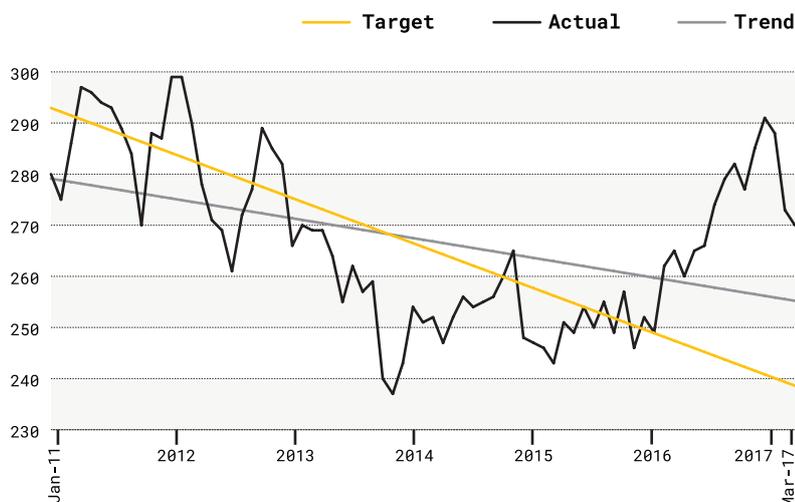


- 372 road deaths occurred in the 12 months ending March 2017, compared to 364 deaths in the same period in 2016.

- An increase of 2.2 percent.

Victoria fatalities per annum

Red



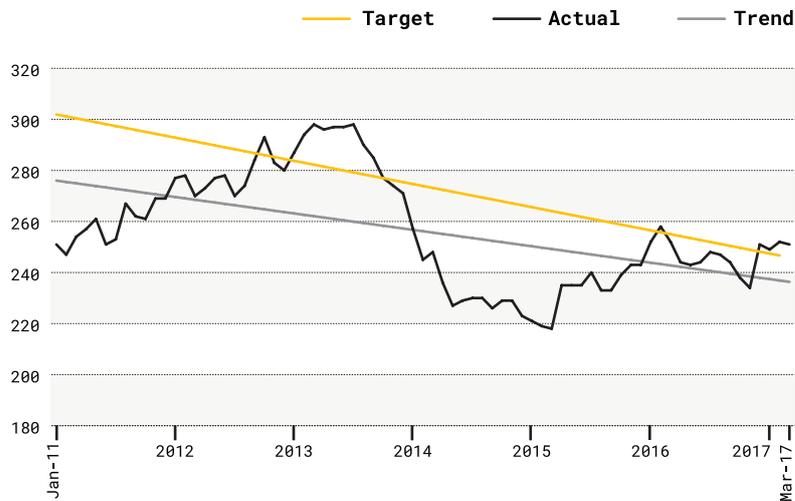
- In the past 12 months, Victoria recorded 270 deaths, compared to 265 deaths in the same period in 2016.

- This is a 1.9 per cent increase on a year earlier.

## Section Two

### Queensland fatalities per annum

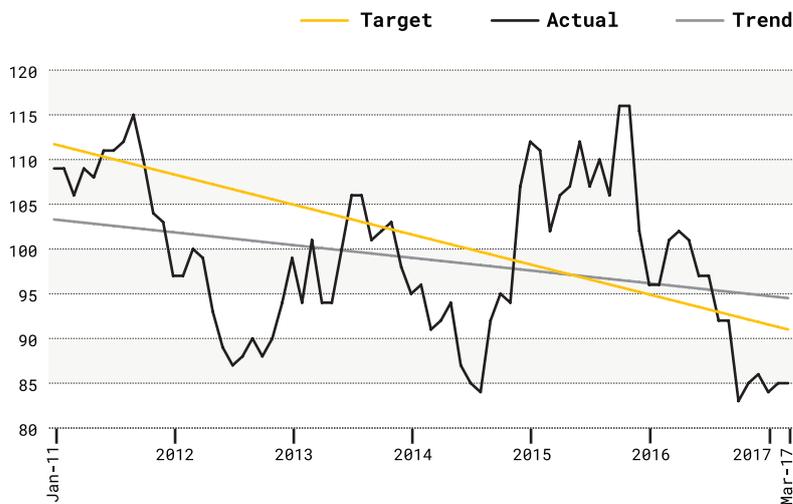
Red



- In the past 12 months, 251 people have died on Queensland roads, compared to 252 deaths in the same period in 2016.
- A 0.4 per cent decrease on a year ago

### South Australia fatalities per annum

Amber



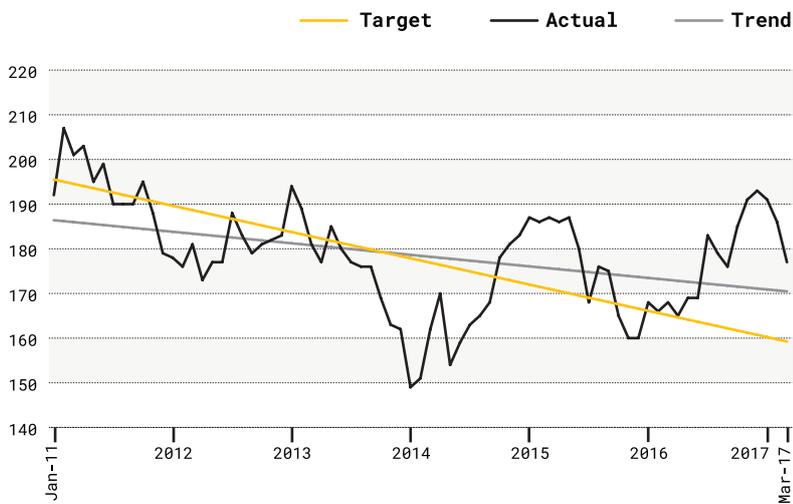
- In the past 12 months, 85 deaths occurred on South Australian roads, compared to 101 deaths in the same period in 2015.
- A decrease of 15.8 per cent over the past year.

## Section Two

# Analysis: States and Territories

Western Australia fatalities per annum

Red

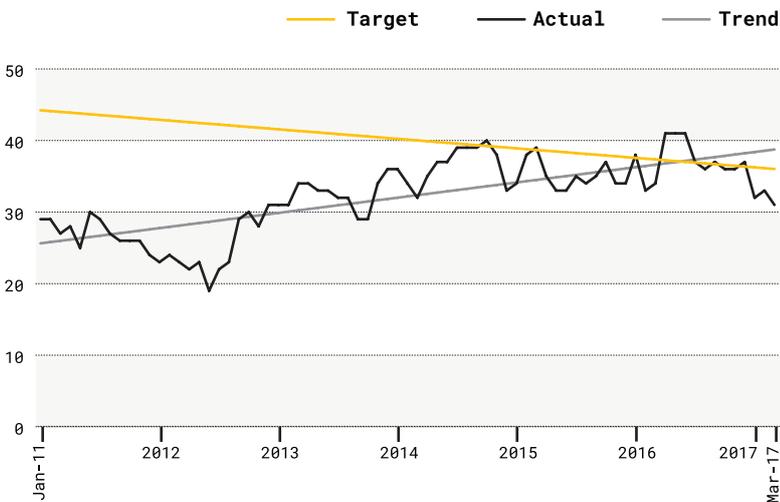


- In the past 12 months, 177 people were killed on Western Australian roads, up from 168 over the same period in 2016.

- This is a 5.4 per cent increase on a year earlier.

Tasmania fatalities per annum

Amber



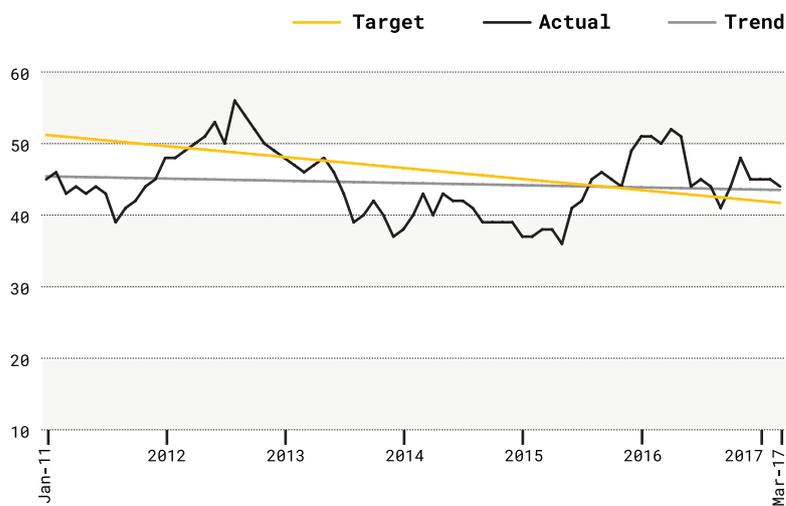
- In the past 12 months, 31 people died on Tasmanian roads, compared to 34 deaths in the same period in 2016.

- This is an 8.8 per cent decrease on a year earlier.

## Section Two

### Northern Territory fatalities per annum

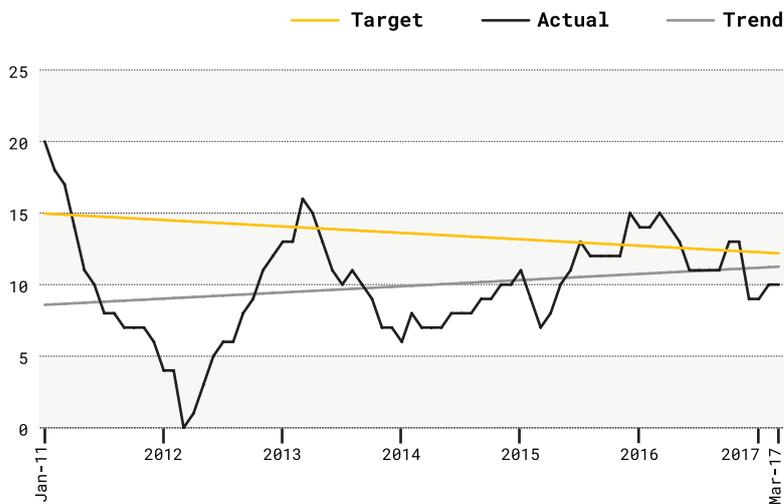
**Red**



- In the past 12 months, 44 people died on Northern Territory roads, down from 50 in the same period in 2016.
- This is a 12.0 per cent decrease on a year earlier.

### Australian Capital Territory fatalities per annum

**Amber**



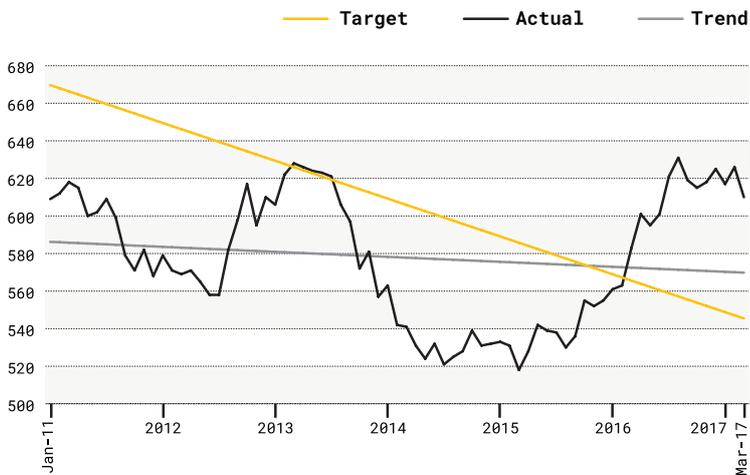
- The ACT recorded 10 deaths in the past 12 months, compared to 15 deaths in the same period in 2016.
- This is a 33.3 per cent decrease on a year earlier.

## Section Three

# Analysis: Road User Groups

### Drivers fatalities per annum

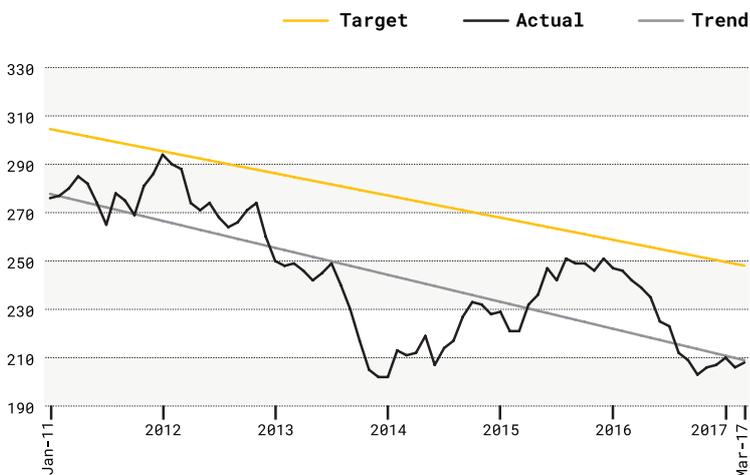
Red



- There have been 610 driver deaths on Australian roads in the past 12 months, an increase from 583 in the corresponding period in 2016.
- An increase of 4.6 per cent over the past year.

### Passengers fatalities per annum

Green

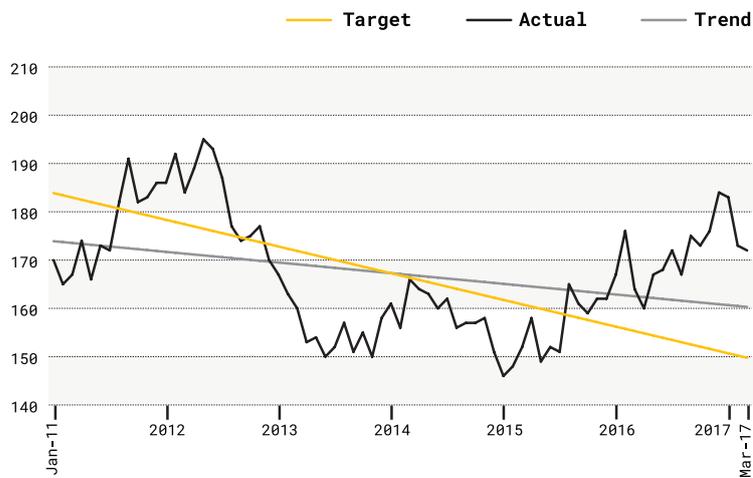


- In the past 12 months, 208 deaths on Australian roads have been passengers, compared with 242 deaths over the same period in 2015.
- This is a decrease of 14.0 per cent.

## Section Three

### Pedestrians fatalities per annum

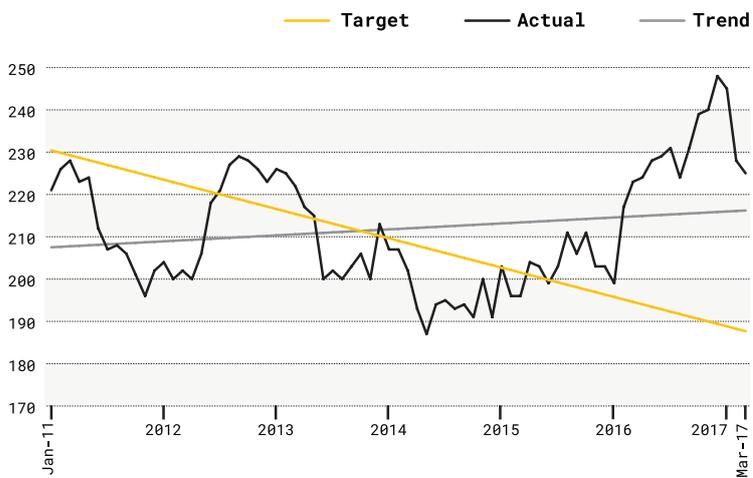
Red



- There have been 172 pedestrian deaths on Australian roads over the 12 months, an increase from 164 deaths over the same period in 2016.
- This represents an increase of 4.9 per cent.

### Motorcyclists fatalities per annum

Red



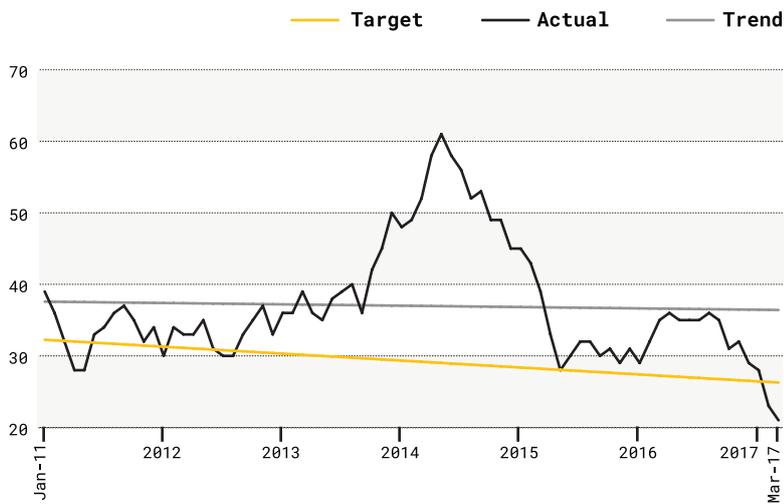
- There have been 225 motorcyclist deaths on Australian roads over the past 12 months, an increase from 223 over the same period in 2015.
- This is a 0.9 per cent increase.

## Section Three

# Analysis: Road User Groups

### Cyclists fatalities per annum

Amber

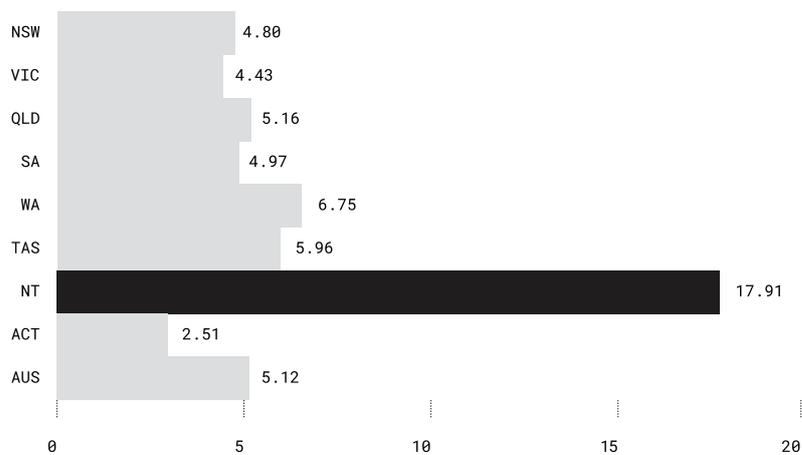


- 21 cyclists have died on Australian roads over the past 12 months, a decrease from 35 deaths over the same period in 2016.
- This is a decrease of 40.0 per cent.

## Section Four

# Analysis: Road Deaths by Population

Annual Road Deaths per 100,000 population



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, Victoria and Queensland 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.

# Analysis: Potential Lives Saved

	Current number of fatalities	Current fatality rate per 100,000 population	Number of fatalities at 4.43 per 100,000 population	Potential lives saved
NSW	372	4.80	343	29
VIC	270	4.43	270	0
QLD	251	5.16	215	36
SA	85	4.97	76	9
WA	177	6.75	116	61
TAS	31	5.96	23	8
NT	44	17.91	11	33
ACT*	10	2.51	10	0
AUS	1240	5.12	1065	175

If the other jurisdictions were able to achieve the Victorian fatality rate of 4.43 per 100,000 population, 175 lives could be saved nationally, with 61 in Western Australia, 36 in Queensland, 8 in Tasmania and 33 in the Northern Territory.

\* jurisdictions with a rate currently lower than 4.43 would not be anticipated to increase the number of fatalities.

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