



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



Australian  
Automobile  
Association

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## Key changes

# Key changes since September 2018 report

Road fatalities declined by 11.0 per cent from the September 2018 quarter to the December 2018 quarter.

The 12 months to December 2018 recorded a decrease in road fatalities compared to the corresponding period in 2017 (1,224 deaths in 2017, compared to 1,146 deaths in 2018).

The data still indicate that Australia is not on track to achieve either the NRSS target for reduction in fatalities or the targeted reductions in serious injuries.

## 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.

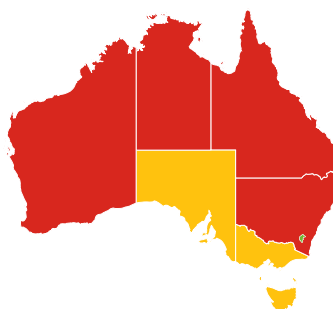
### Amber

- 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.

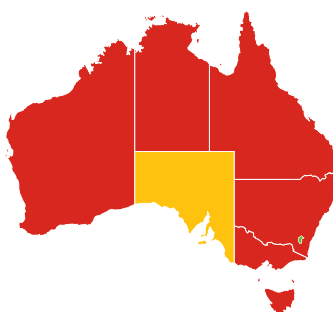
## Current national status



## Red

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

## Previous national status



## Red

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

## User groups

	Previous	Current
Drivers	Red	Red
Passengers	Green	Green
Pedestrians	Red	Red
Motorcyclists	Red	Red
Cyclists	Red	Red

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 17 January 2019 and Road Deaths Australia December 2018 monthly bulletin ISSN 1449-1168. The Australian Trauma Registry (ATR) has provided data on severe injuries.

# Australia's road toll: December 2018

The latest edition of the AAA's road safety Benchmarking Report confirms that Australia is not on track to meet road safety targets agreed by all Australian Governments in 2011.

The AAA's Benchmarking Report tracks progress against the National Road Safety Strategy target of reducing road deaths by at least 30 per cent by December 2020.

All Australian governments committed to this strategy in 2011.

With less than two years of the strategy to go, road fatalities remain much higher than the rate needed to meet the NRSS national target.

In 2018, 1,146 people lost their lives on Australian roads. This is less than the 2017 total of 1,224 road deaths.

But it is a higher toll than in the 12-month period to March 2015 — revealing how little progress has been made in the past few years.

This is a national crisis, an ongoing tragedy that government is doing little to rectify.

In the eight years since the National Road Safety Strategy began, many of its targets still cannot be measured.

If government cannot say how many serious road crash injuries occur each year, or measure the number of crashes in which speed was a factor, how can it properly assess the success of various strategies?

Last September, the independent Inquiry into the National Road Safety Strategy 2011–2020 found that Australia's road safety strategy is grossly underfunded; that data collection is “embarrassing”; and that the NRSS lacks transparency and accountability.

The AAA strongly supports the Inquiry's call for significantly increased federal government engagement and leadership in road safety.

But to date the government has committed to just one of the Inquiry's recommendations — a review of our federal road safety bureaucracy.

The AAA will work closely with its member clubs and other like-minded organisations in advocating a full response to the Inquiry's report and for real action on road safety in the lead-up to the 2019 federal election.



**Michael Bradley**

Chief Executive  
Australian Automobile Association



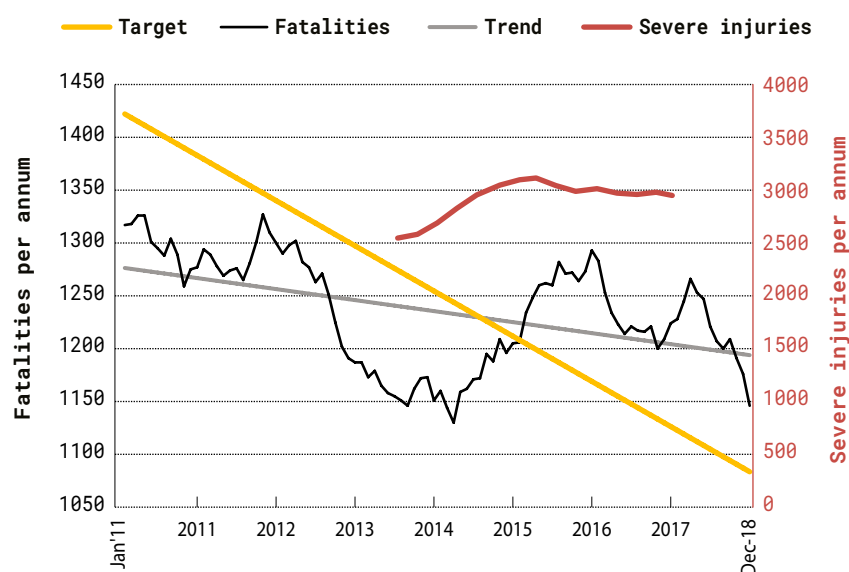


## Section One

# National overview

### National (Australia) fatalities and severe injuries per annum

Red



The NRSS aims for a reduction in road fatalities and serious injuries of at least 30 per cent by 2020. Since the road safety strategy began, the calendar year road toll has decreased by 15.3 per cent, which is far below the rate required to reach the 2020 target.

In the 2018 calendar year, 1,146 people died on Australian roads, 6.4 per cent fewer than the 2017 road toll of 1,224.

In the quarter ending December 2018, there were 276 road deaths — 11 per cent lower than the 310 deaths recorded in the previous quarter.

### Severe injuries

The Benchmarking Report also includes data on severe injuries from on-road crashes. Severe injuries are a subset of serious injuries.

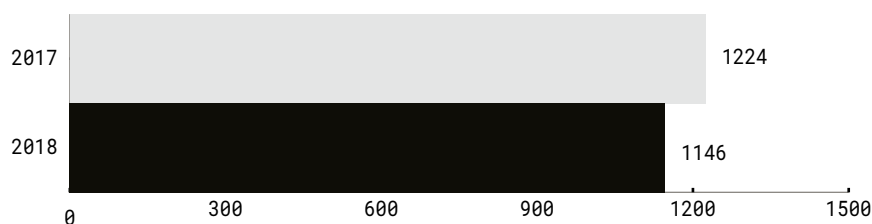
The Australian Trauma Registry (ATR) provides national injury statistics. These figures are included in the Benchmarking Report for the 12-month period ending December 2017.

The number of severe injuries in 2017 was 1.7 per cent lower than in 2016.

The ATR notes that variations in data may be due to improved data completeness and quality, and this must be considered when interpreting the data.

The reported figures for annual severe injuries between December 2015 and December 2017 are directly comparable as the data quality and number of reporting trauma centres were consistent for that period.

### Comparative performance: Road fatalities in the past 12 months



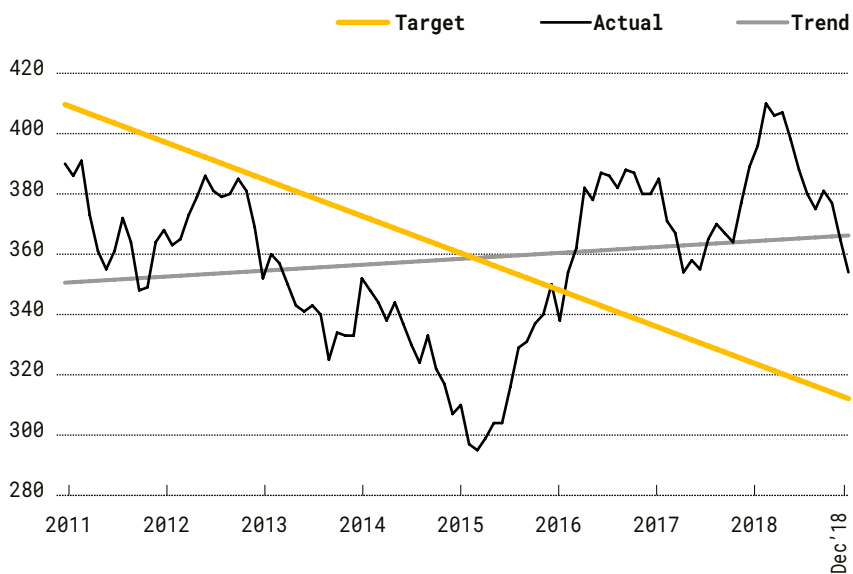
The national road toll for the 12 months ending December 2018 was 6.4 per cent lower than the 2017 toll.

## Section Two

# Analysis: States and territories

### New South Wales fatalities per annum

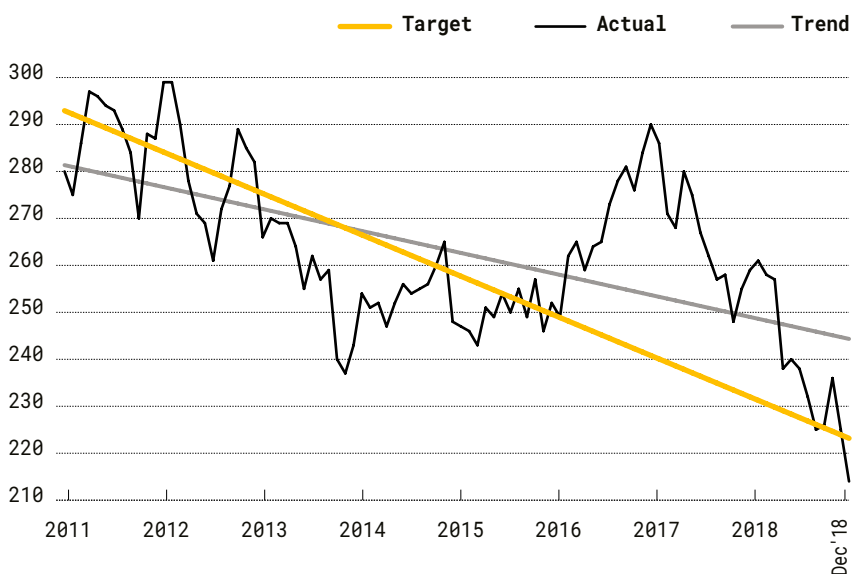
Red



- There were 354 deaths on NSW roads in the 12 months ending December 2018.
- This is 9 per cent lower than the 389 deaths recorded in 2017.

### Victoria fatalities per annum

Amber



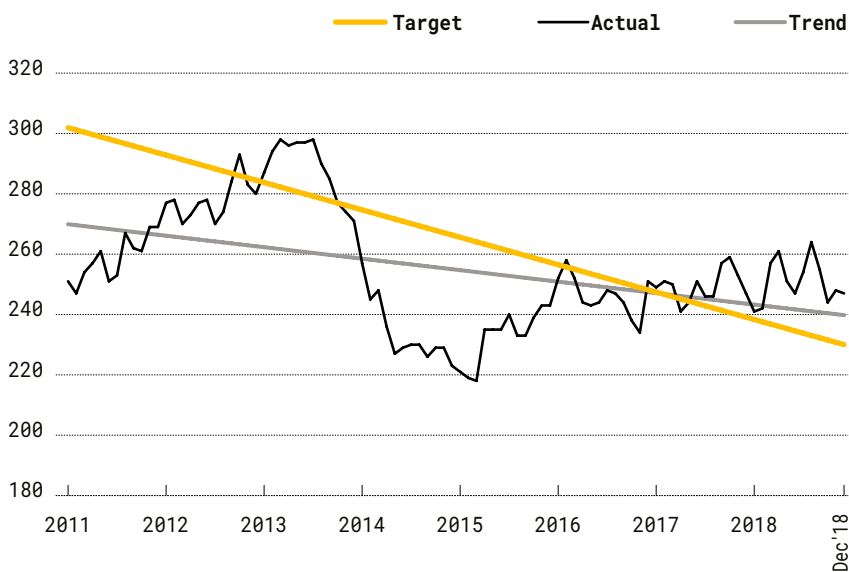
- In the 12 months to December 2018, 214 people died on Victorian roads, compared to 259 in 2017.
- This was a 17.4 per cent decrease.



## Section Two

### Queensland fatalities per annum

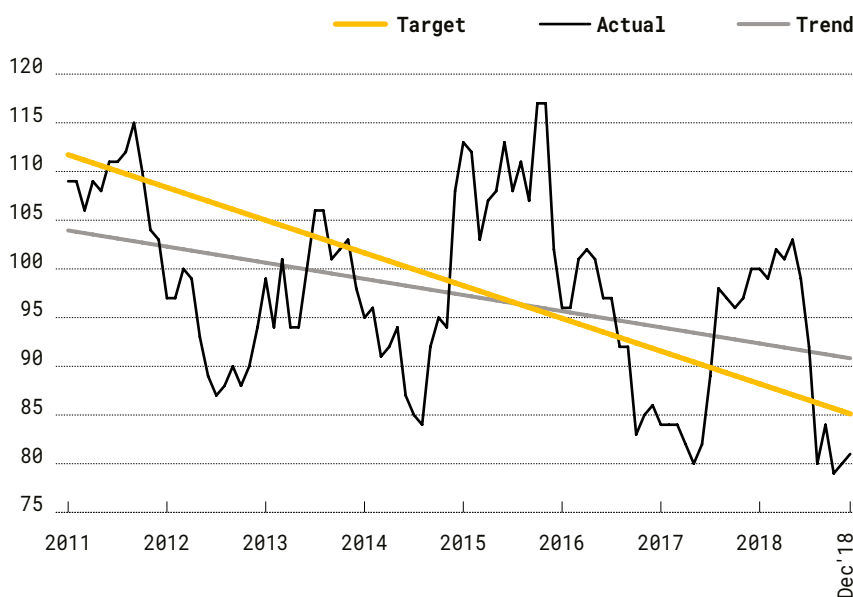
Red



- In the 12 months to December 2018, Queensland recorded 247 deaths.
- This was exactly the same as the state's 2017 road toll.

### South Australia fatalities per annum

Amber



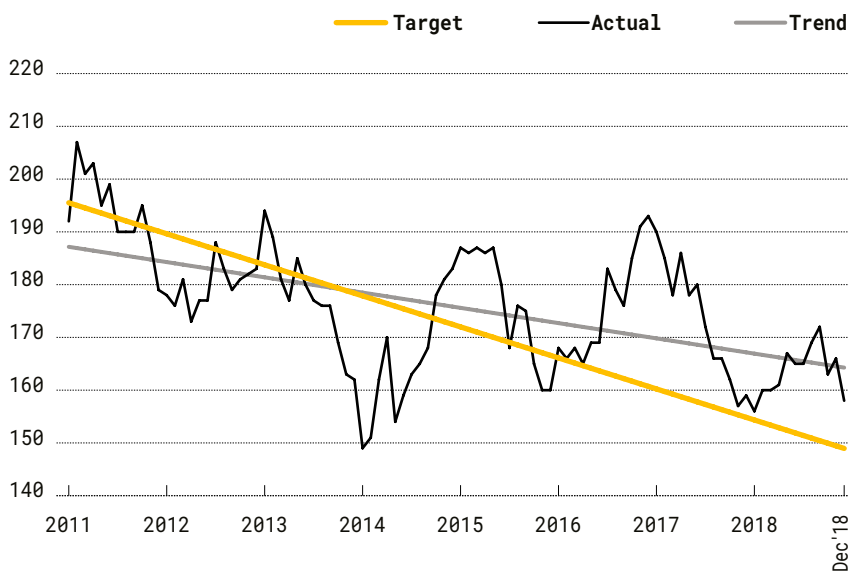
- In the 12 months to December 2018, there were 81 deaths on South Australian roads, compared to 100 deaths in 2017.
- This was a 19 per cent decrease.

## Section Two

# Analysis: States and territories

### Western Australia fatalities per annum

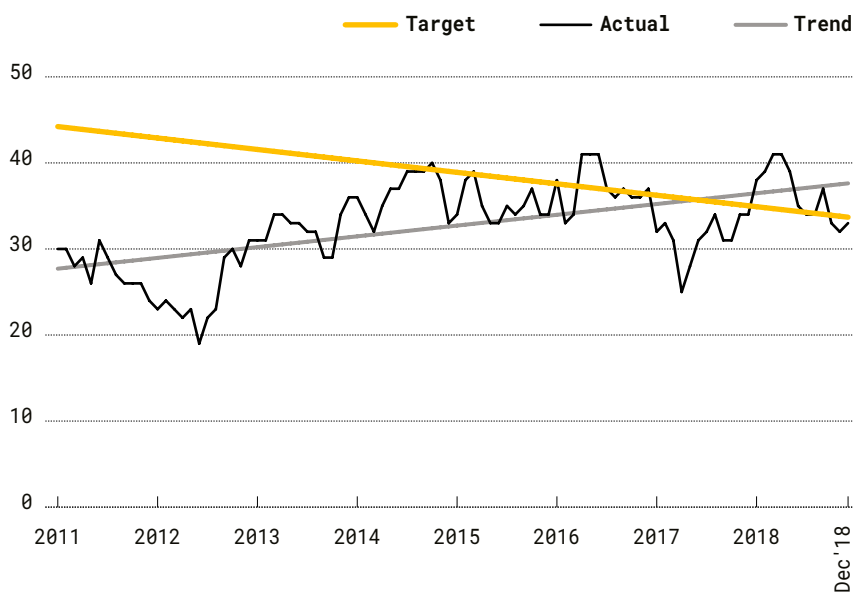
Red



- In the 12 months to December 2018, 158 people died on Western Australian roads, compared to 159 deaths in 2017.
- This was a 0.6 per cent decrease.

### Tasmania fatalities per annum

Amber

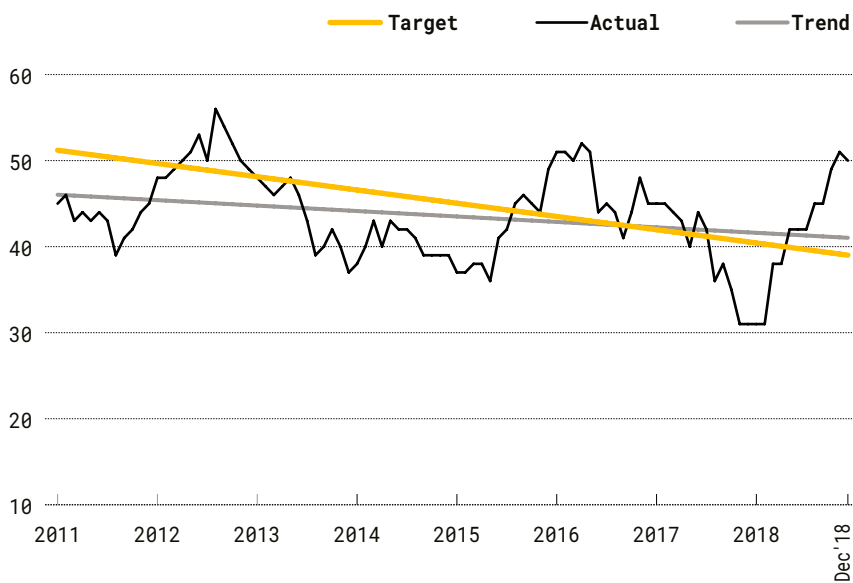


- In the 12 months to December 2018, 33 people died on Tasmanian roads — one fewer than the 34 deaths recorded in 2017.
- This was a 2.9 per cent decrease.

## Section Two

### Northern Territory fatalities per annum

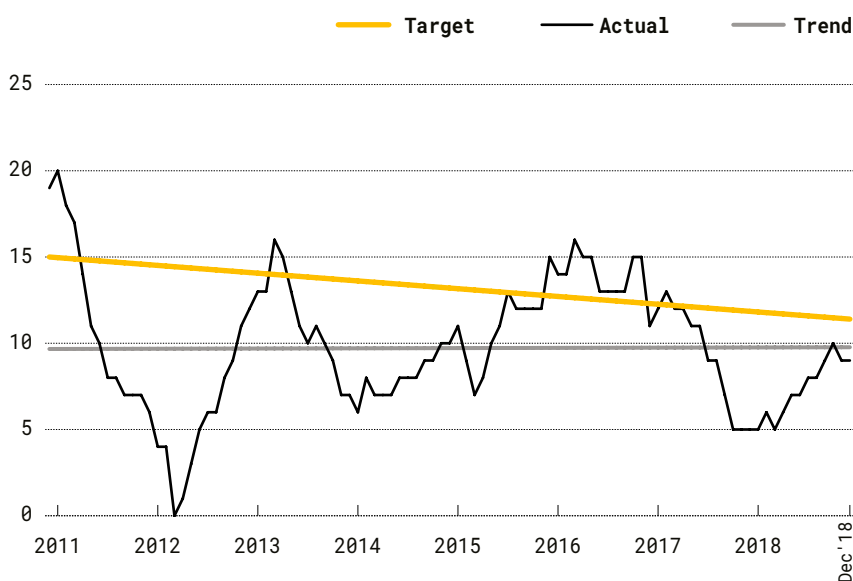
Red



- In the 12 months to December 2018, 50 people died on Northern Territory roads, compared to 31 deaths in 2017.
- This was a 61.3 per cent increase.

### Australian Capital Territory fatalities per annum

Green



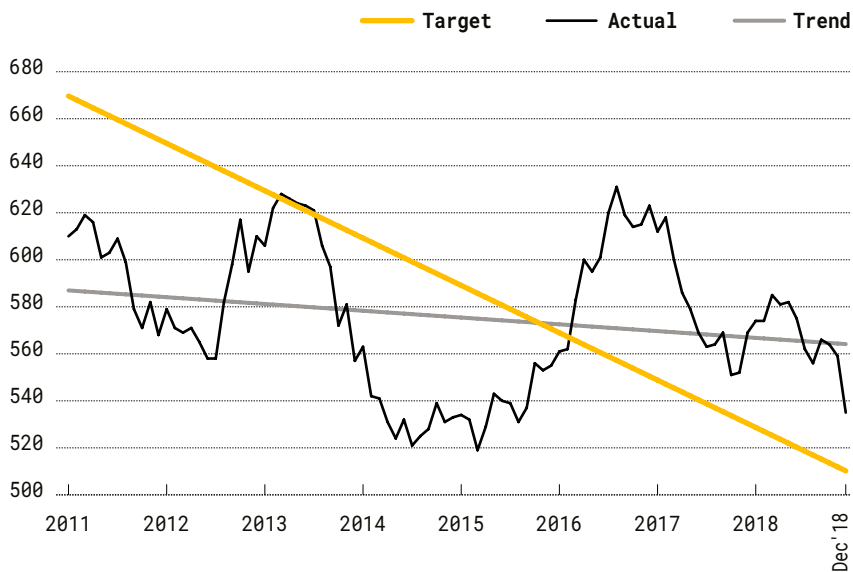
- The ACT recorded 9 deaths in the 12 months to December 2018, compared to 5 in 2017.
- This was an 80 per cent increase.

## Section Three

# Analysis: Road user groups

### Drivers fatalities per annum

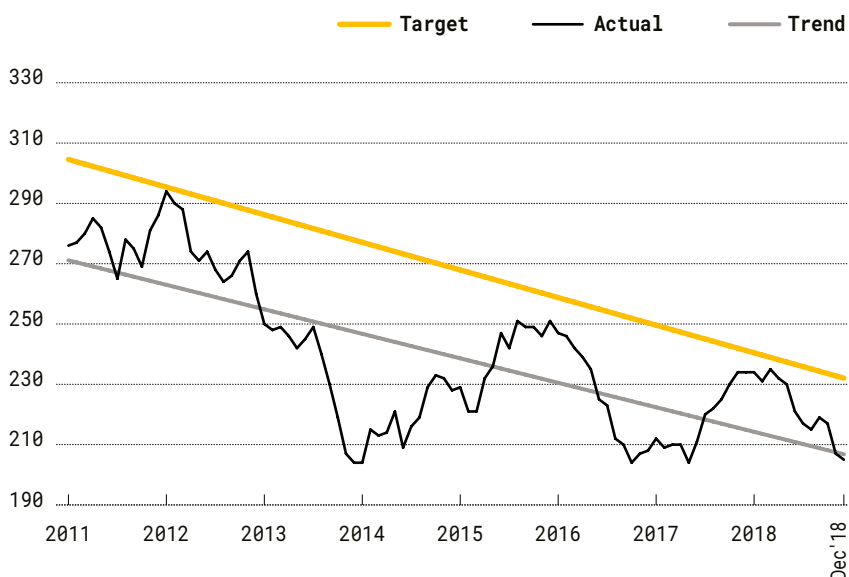
Red



- In the 12 months ending December 2018, 535 drivers died on Australian roads, compared to 569 in 2017.
- This was a 6 per cent decrease.

### Passengers fatalities per annum

Green

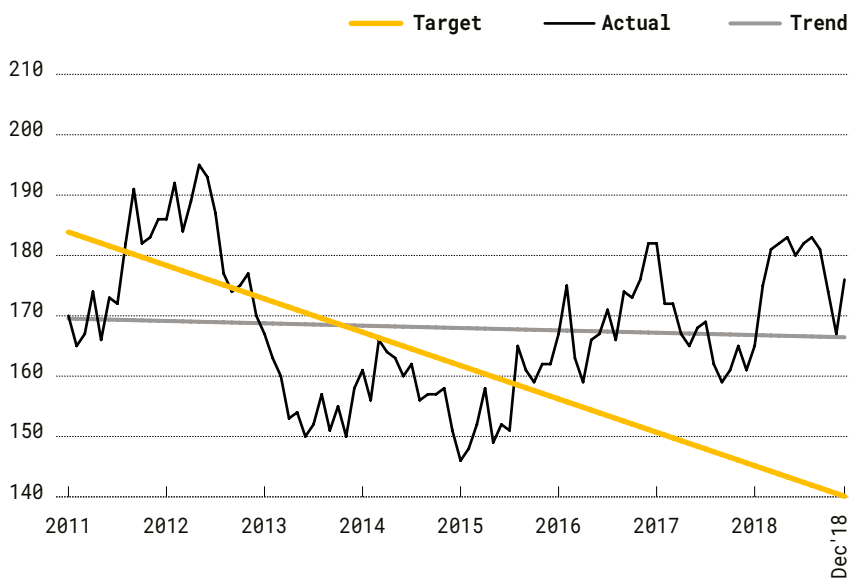


- In the 12 months to December 2018, 205 passengers died on Australian roads, compared with 234 in 2017.
- This was a 12.4 per cent decrease.

## Section Three

### Pedestrians fatalities per annum

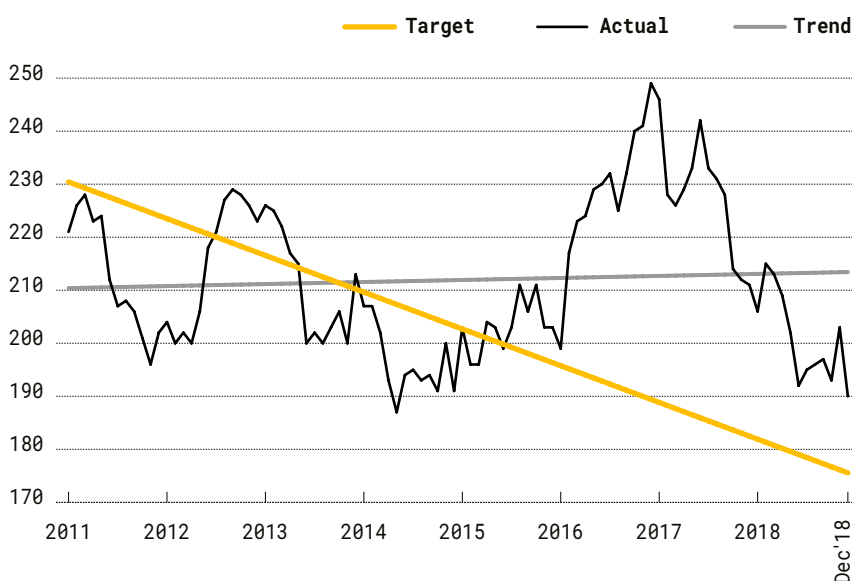
Red



- There were 176 pedestrian deaths on Australian roads in the 12 months to December 2018, compared to 161 deaths in 2017.
- This was a 9.3 per cent increase.

### Motorcyclists fatalities per annum

Red



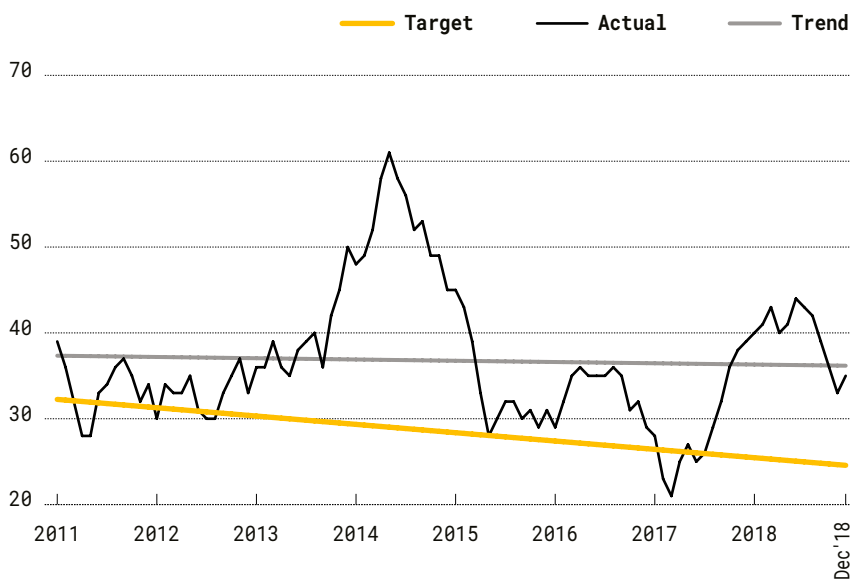
- There were 190 motorcyclist deaths on Australian roads in the 12 months to December 2018, compared to 211 in 2017.
- This was a 10 per cent decrease.



# Analysis: Road user groups

Cyclists fatalities per annum

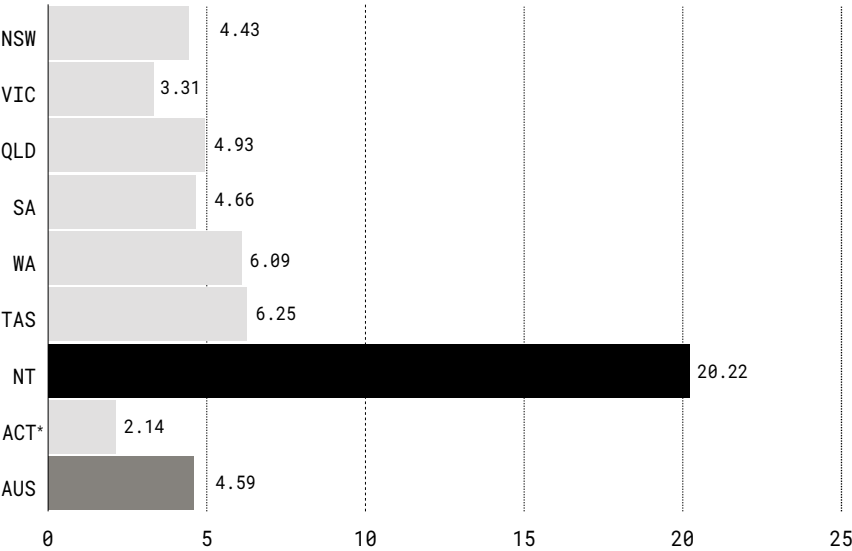
Red



- In 2018, 35 cyclists died on Australian roads .
- This was a 10.3 per cent decrease from the 39 deaths recorded in 2017.

# Analysis: Road deaths by population

Annual road deaths per 100,000 population



The National Road Safety Strategy does not set targets for reducing deaths per head of population in different states and territories.

But monitoring these figures helps identify priority areas.

Road fatality rates in Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory are higher than the national average.

# Analysis: Potential lives saved

	Current number of fatalities	Current fatality rate per 100,000 population	Number of fatalities at 3.31 per 100,000 population	Potential lives saved
NSW	354	4.43	265	89
VIC	214	3.31	214	0
QLD	247	4.93	166	81
SA	81	4.66	58	23
WA	158	6.09	86	72
TAS	33	6.25	17	16
NT	50	20.22	8	42
ACT*	9	2.14	9	0
National	1146	4.59	822	324

If all other states and the Northern Territory matched Victoria's rate of 3.31 road deaths per 100,000 people, 324 lives could be saved nationally .

There would be 89 lives saved in NSW, 81 in Queensland, 72 in Western Australia, and 42 in the Northern Territory. (The ACT's fatality rates are already below Victoria's rates.)

\* This jurisdiction has a road fatality rate lower than 3.31, and its road toll is not expected to increase.

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