



BENCHMARKING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY

JUNE QUARTER 2020



Australian
Automobile
Association

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Key changes

Key changes since March 2020 report

In the 12 months to June 2020, road fatalities decreased by 91 compared to the corresponding period: there were 1,105 deaths, compared to 1,196 deaths in the 12 months to June 2019.

Road fatalities decreased by 14.6 per cent from the March quarter to the June quarter of 2020.

The data still indicate that Australia is not on track to achieve either the target for reduction in fatalities or the targeted reductions in serious injuries of the National Road Safety Strategy (NRSS).

Analytical key

Green

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

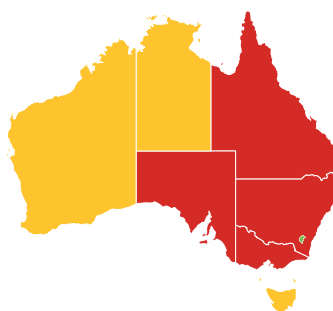
Amber

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

Red

- Road crash fatalities are above the notional NRSS target.

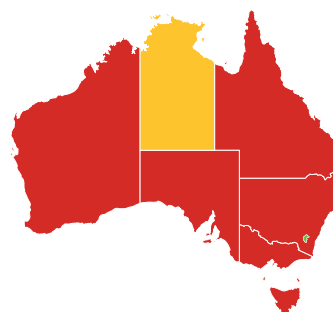
Current national status



Red

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

Previous national status



Red

NSW	Red
VIC	Red
QLD	Red
SA	Red
WA	Red
TAS	Red
NT	Amber
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 were sourced from the Australian Road Deaths Database: https://www.bitre.gov.au/statistics/safety/fatal_road_crash_database, accessed on 14 July 2020; and Road Deaths Australia June 2020 monthly bulletin ISSN 1449-1168. Data on severe injuries were obtained from the Australian Trauma Registry (ATR).

COVID-19 drives dip in road toll

This report finds that there has been a welcome and sharp 14.6 per cent decrease in road fatalities in the quarter ending June 2020, compared with the previous quarter.

Regrettably however, this reduction cannot readily be attributed to any new road safety policy settings. Instead, it is more likely a result of fewer Australians driving on our roads during the COVID-19 pandemic, either as a part of formal 'lockdowns' or general government guidance and travel restrictions.

Government data shows traffic volumes have halved across Sydney during the peak of the COVID-19 lockdown; and research by the Australian Road Research Board found there had been an 88-95 per cent reduction in congestion on Melbourne's Monash Freeway for weekday peak periods.

Therefore, it is unfortunate but likely the recent decreases in road trauma identified in this report are an aberration resulting from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on road use and travel volumes.

The decreases in road fatalities are nationwide, except in Queensland.

Over the broader period, this report finds that in the 12 months to June 2020, 1,105 people died on Australian roads, a decrease of 7.6 per cent from 1,196 in the 12 months to June 2019.

Even with this recent decrease, in part driven by the effects of COVID-19, this report confirms that the life-saving targets that all governments agreed to in 2011 as a part of the 10-year National Road Safety Strategy, are unlikely to be met by the agreed deadline of December this year.

The Strategy will almost certainly fail to meet its objective to reduce road deaths and serious injuries by 30 per cent by the end of 2020. This failure is reflected across the nation, with not a single state on a trajectory to meet this road trauma reduction target.

This latest report also shows an alarming spike in cyclist fatalities. The number of cyclists dying on our roads has doubled over the last three years.

The Commonwealth, state and territory governments are currently finalising the next National Road Safety Strategy to commence at the beginning of next year. To date, there has been no public consultation on what that Strategy will look like.

On behalf of the 8.5 million motorists that the AAA represents through our member clubs—NRMA, RACV, RACQ, RAA, RAC, RACT and AANT—we will be looking for all levels of government to redouble their focus and efforts on road safety.



Michael Bradley

Managing Director
Australian Automobile Association

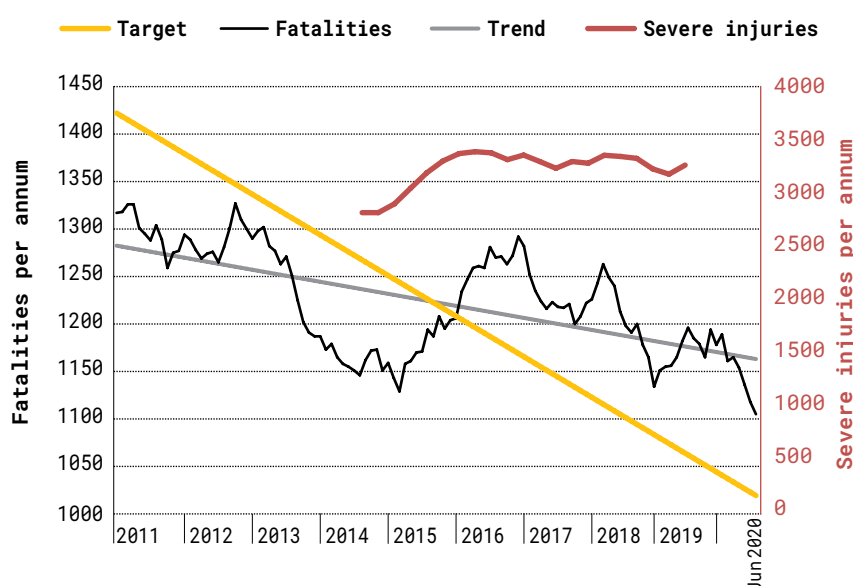


Section One

National overview

National (Australia) fatalities and severe injuries per annum

Red



As of June 2020, fatalities have reduced by 22.5 per cent against the agreed National Road Safety Strategy (NRSS) baseline.

The Strategy aims to reduce road fatalities and serious injuries by at least 30 per cent from the baseline by 2020.

Compared with 2011, when the Strategy began, the 12-month road toll has decreased by only 18.3 per cent.

Fatalities

There were 246 fatalities in the quarter ending June 2020; this was 14.6 per cent lower than the 288 deaths recorded in the previous quarter.

In the 12 months ended June 2020, there were 1,105 deaths on Australian roads.

This was a 7.6 per cent decrease from the 1,196 road deaths in the 12 months ended June 2019.

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 to AAA. The number of reported severe injuries in the 12 months to June 2019 was 3,270.

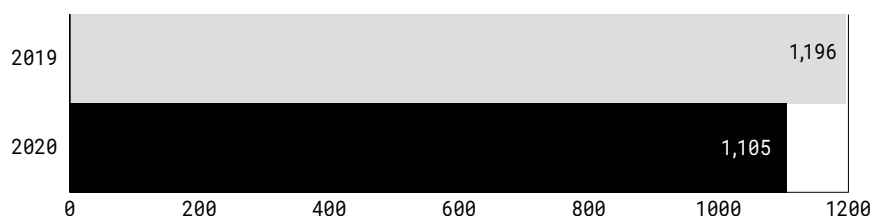
The ATR notes that variations in data may be due to improved data completeness and quality and this must be considered when interpreting the data.

Annual figures for severe injuries between the June 2016 and March 2018

quarters are directly comparable as the number of reporting trauma sites was consistent for that period. One site has been unable to submit data since the June 2018 quarter, while another commenced reporting in the December 2018 quarter, which affected overall numbers for those quarters.

Data quality is consistent across all quarters with the same quality checks applied. Numbers may change slightly for the most recent quarters as sites identify further patients for inclusion/exclusion in future data submissions to ATR.

Comparative performance: Road fatalities in the past 12 months



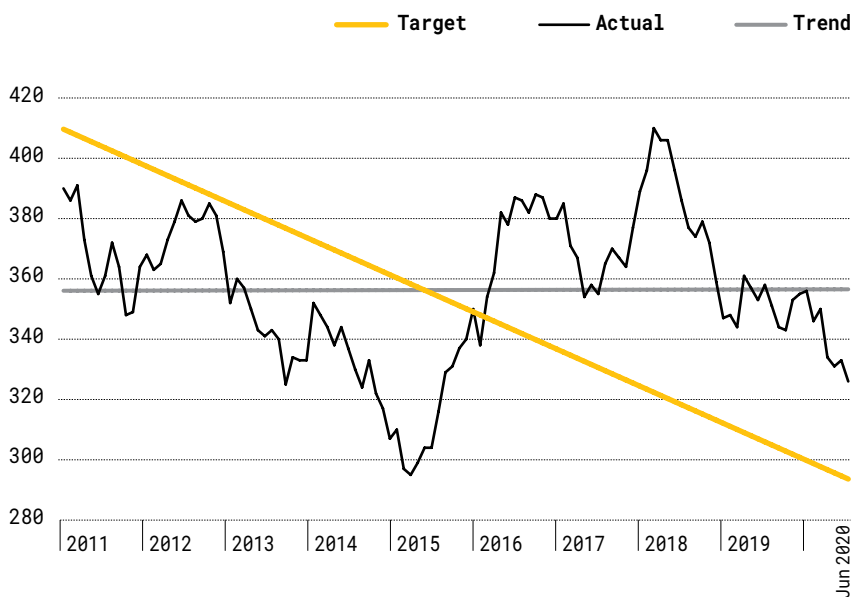
The national road toll for the 12 months ending June 2020 was 7.6 per cent lower than in the previous corresponding period.

Section Two

Analysis: States and territories

New South Wales fatalities per annum

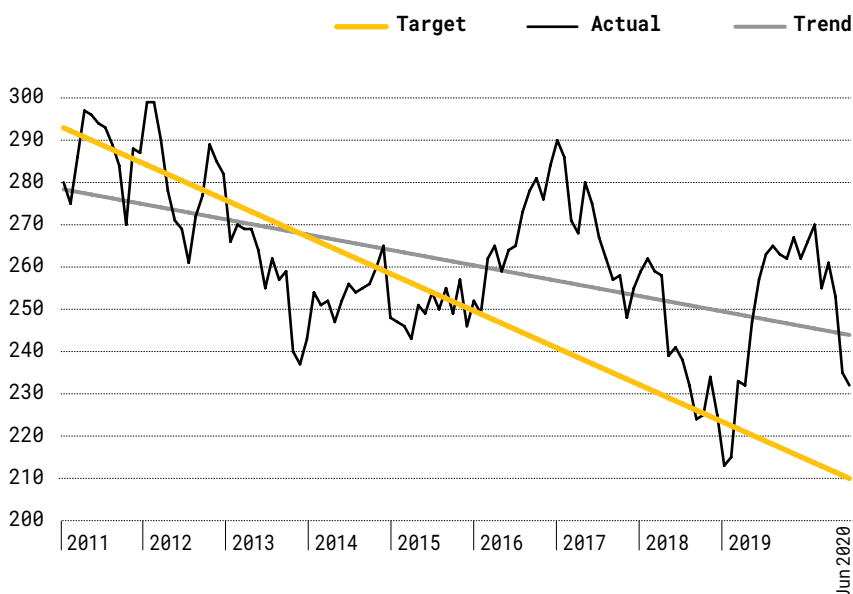
Red



- In the 12 months ending June 2020, 326 people died on NSW roads, compared to 358 in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a decrease of 8.9 per cent.

Victoria fatalities per annum

Red

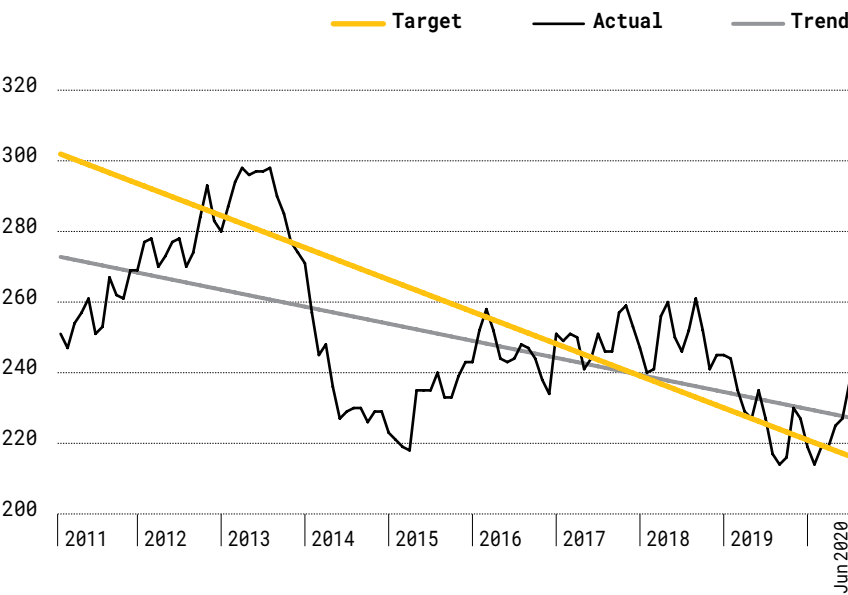


- In the 12 months to June 2020, 232 people died on Victorian roads, compared to 263 in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a decrease of 11.8 per cent.

Section Two

Queensland fatalities per annum

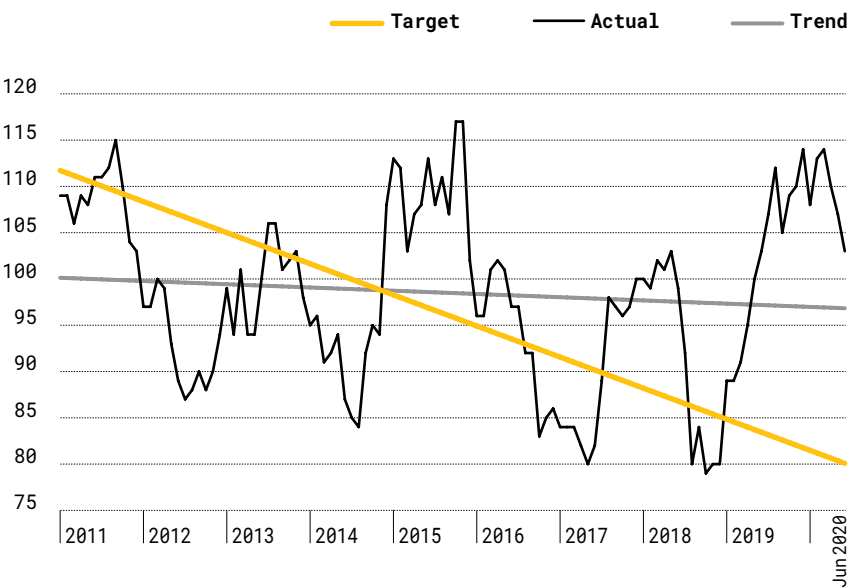
Red



- In the 12 months to June 2020, 237 people died on Queensland roads, up from 227 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is an increase of 4.4 per cent.

South Australia fatalities per annum

Red



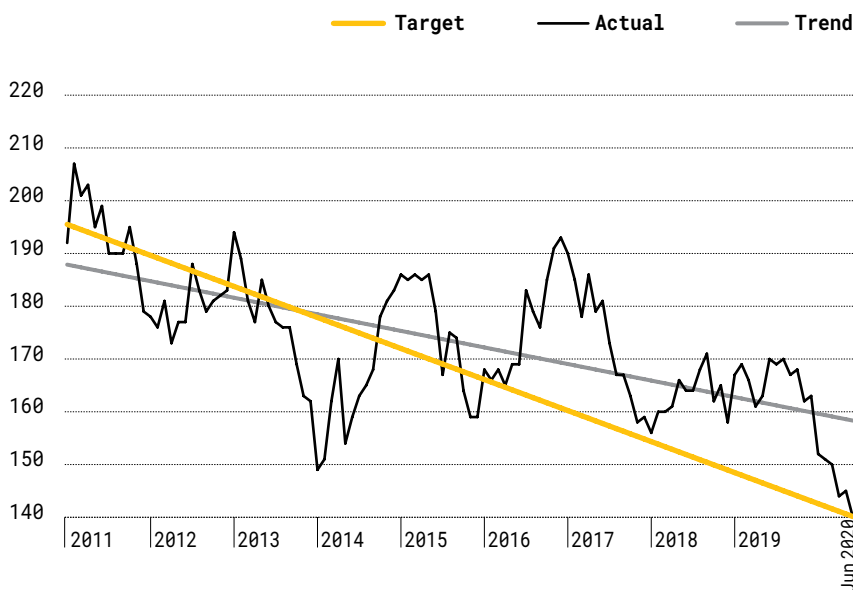
- In the 12 months to June 2020, 103 people died on South Australian roads, which is the exact same number of deaths as in the previous corresponding period.

Section Two

Analysis: States and territories

Western Australia fatalities per annum

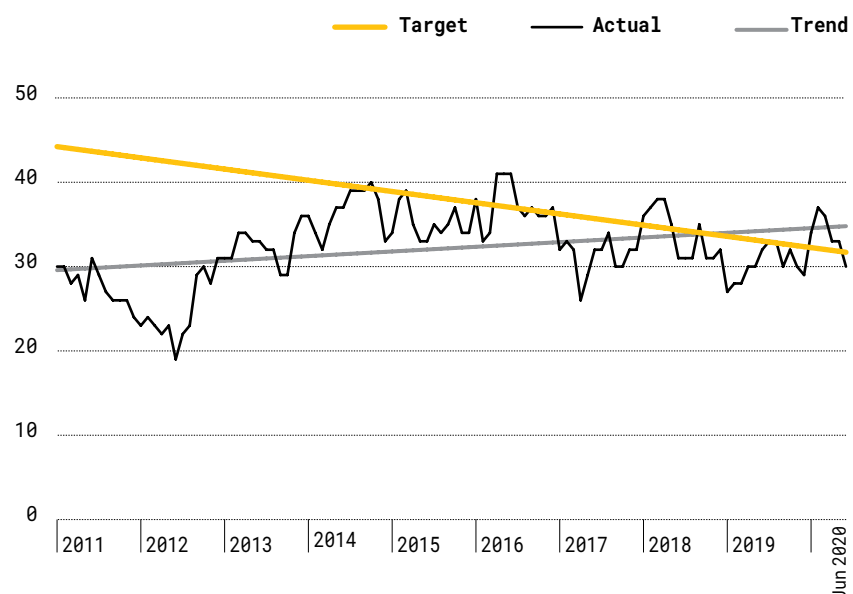
Amber



- In the 12 months to June 2020, 140 people died on Western Australian roads, compared to 170 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a decrease of 17.6 per cent.

Tasmania fatalities per annum

Amber

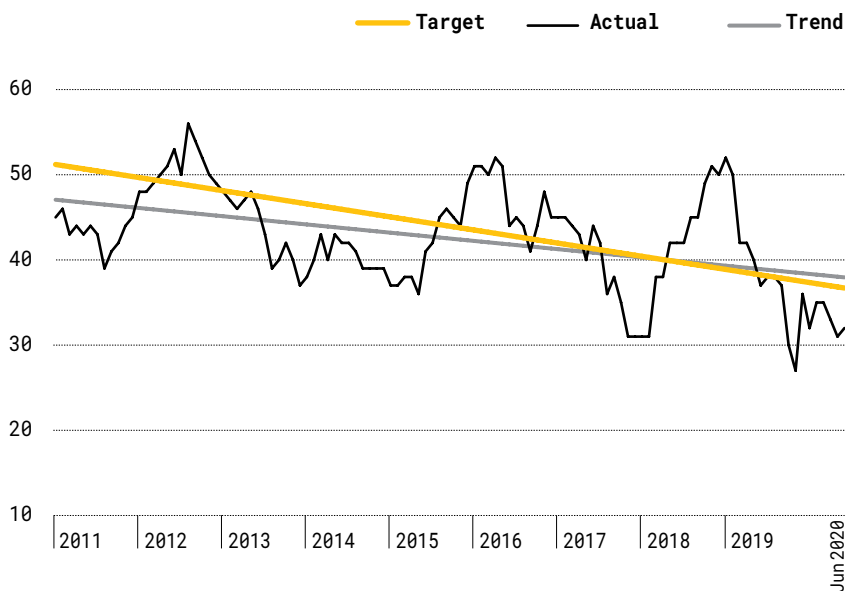


- In the 12 months ending June 2020, 30 people died on Tasmanian roads, compared to 32 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a decrease of 6.3 per cent.

Section Two

Northern Territory fatalities per annum

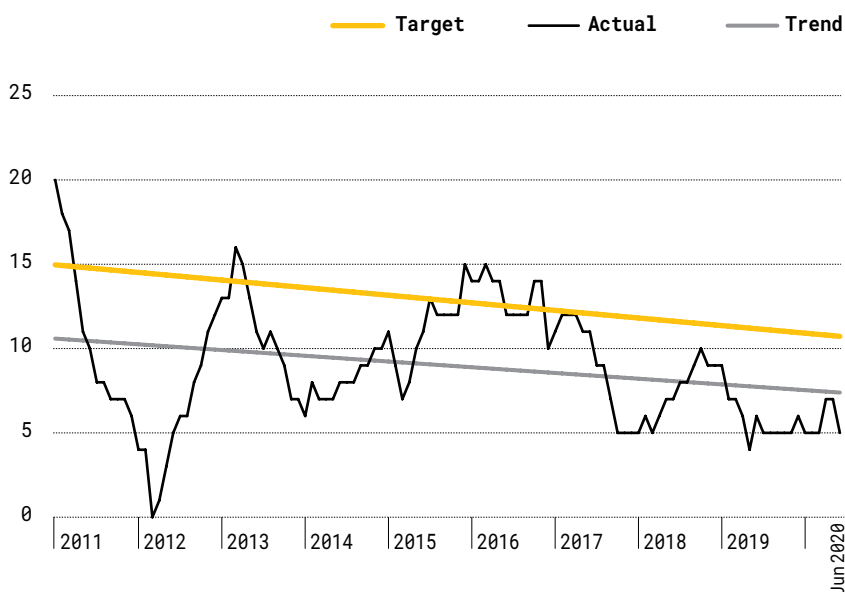
Amber



- In the 12 months to June 2020, 32 people died on Northern Territory roads, compared to 37 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a decrease of 13.5 per cent.

Australian Capital Territory fatalities per annum

Green



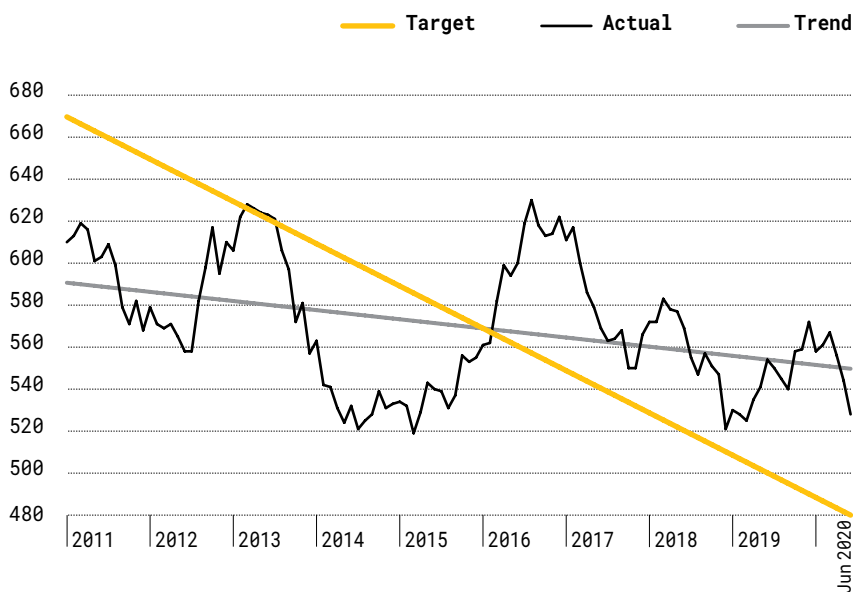
- In the 12 months to June 2020, 5 people died on ACT roads, compared to 6 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a decrease of 16.7 per cent.

Section Three

Analysis: Road user groups

Drivers fatalities per annum

Red



- In the 12 months to June 2020, 528 drivers died on Australian roads, compared to 554 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a decrease of 4.7 per cent.

Passengers fatalities per annum

Green

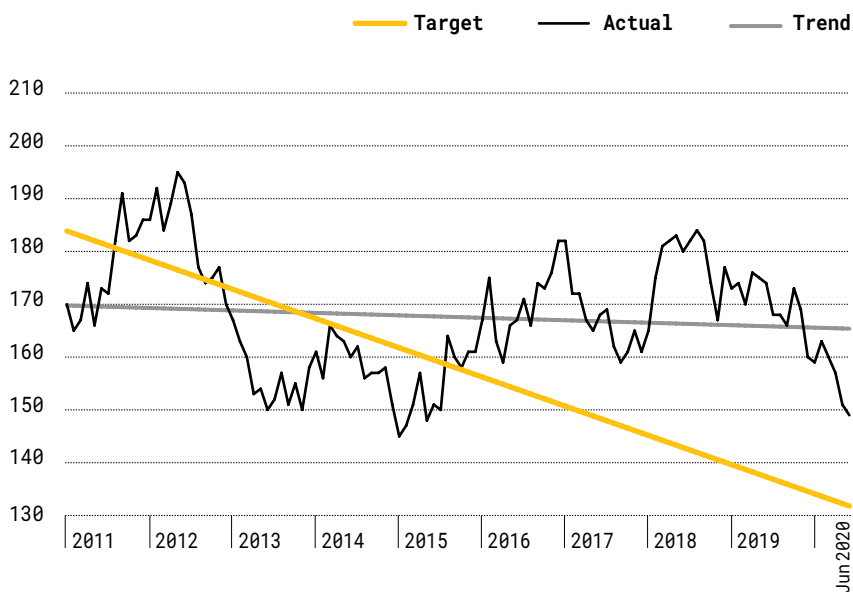


- In the 12 months to June 2020, 184 passengers died on Australian roads, compared with 223 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a decrease of 17.5 per cent.

Section Three

Pedestrians fatalities per annum

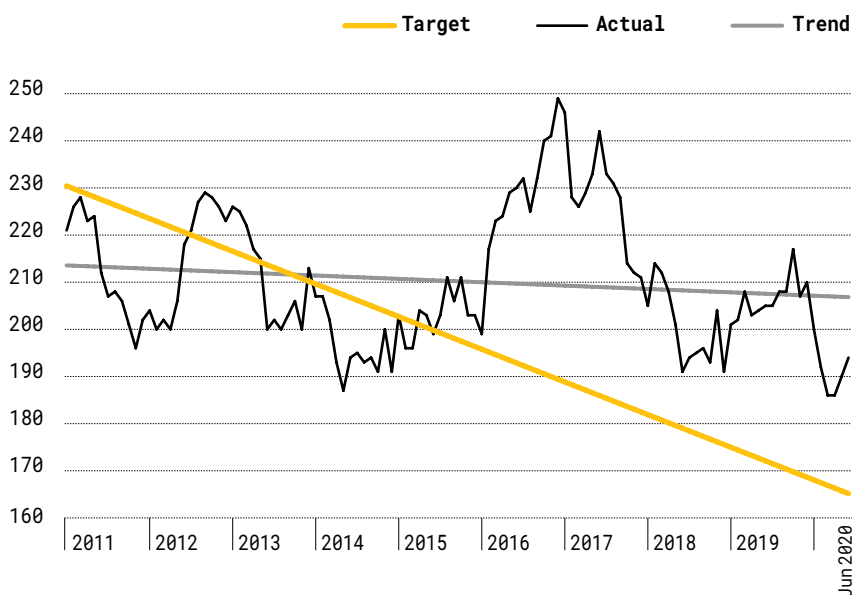
Red



- In the 12 months to June 2020, there were 149 pedestrian deaths on Australian roads, compared to 174 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a decrease of 14.4 per cent.

Motorcyclists fatalities per annum

Red



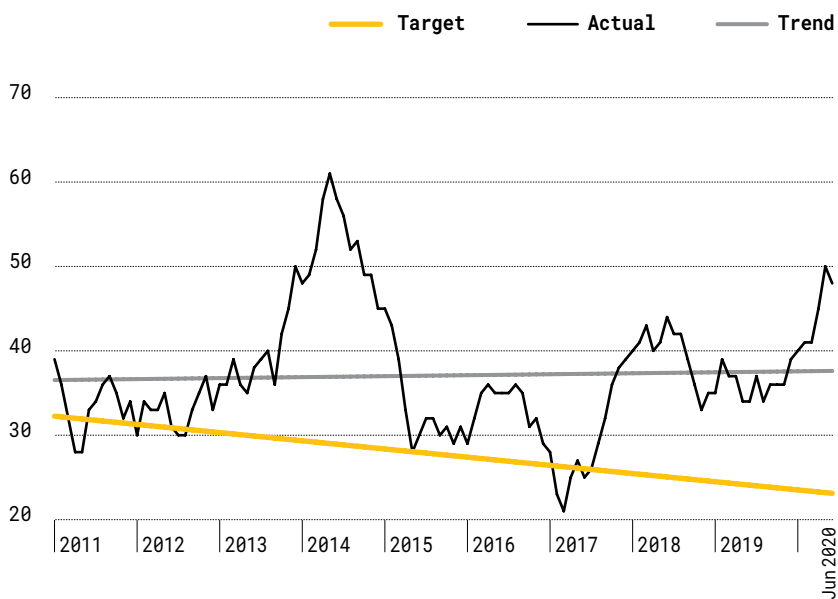
- In the 12 months to June 2020, there were 194 motorcyclist deaths on Australian roads, compared to 205 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a decrease of 5.4 per cent.

Section Three

Analysis: Road user groups

Cyclists fatalities per annum

Red

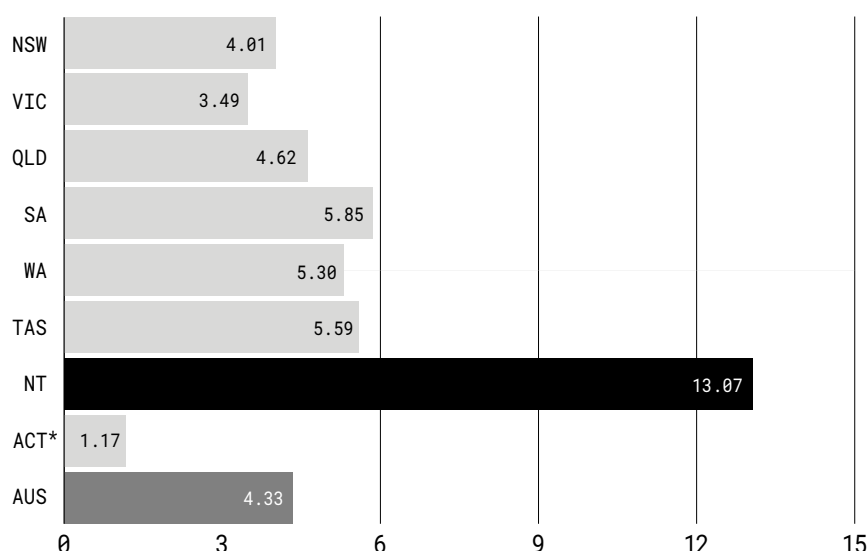


- In the 12 months to June 2020, 48 cyclists died on Australian roads, compared to 34 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is an increase of 41.2 per cent.

Section Four

Analysis: Road deaths by population

Annual road deaths per 100,000 population



The National Road Safety Strategy does not include any fatality rate targets based on deaths per head of population in different jurisdictions. But fatality rates are still useful for determining priority areas. The data show that South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory have more road deaths per head of population than the national average.

Analysis: Potential lives saved

	Current number of fatalities	Current fatality rate per 100,000 population	Number of fatalities at 3.49 per 100,000 population	Potential lives saved*
NSW	326	4.01	284	42
VIC	232	3.49	232	0
QLD	237	4.62	179	58
SA	103	5.85	61	42
WA	140	5.30	92	48
TAS	30	5.59	19	11
NT	32	13.07	9	23
ACT*	5	1.17	5	0
National	1,105	4.33	881	224

If the other jurisdictions matched the Victorian fatality rate of 3.49 per 100,000 population, 224 lives could have been saved across Australia in the year to June 2020:

- 42 in New South Wales
- 58 in Queensland
- 42 in South Australia
- 48 in Western Australia
- 11 in Tasmania
- 23 in the Northern Territory.

* In this scenario, any jurisdiction with a rate already lower than Victoria's (3.49) would not reduce its fatality rate.

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