



BENCHMARKING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY

SEPTEMBER QUARTER 2020



Australian
Automobile
Association

Released October 2020



Table of contents

Key changes	Key changes since June 2020 report	4
Foreword	Australia's road toll increases as drivers return to our roads	5
Section One	National overview	7
Section Two	Analysis: States and territories	8
Section Three	Analysis: Road user groups	12
Section Four	Analysis: Road deaths by population	15

Key changes

Key changes since June 2020 report

In the 12 months to September 2020, road fatalities decreased by 57 compared to the corresponding period: there were 1,107 deaths, compared to 1,164 deaths in the 12 months to September 2019.

Road fatalities increased by 12.9 per cent from the June quarter to the September 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.

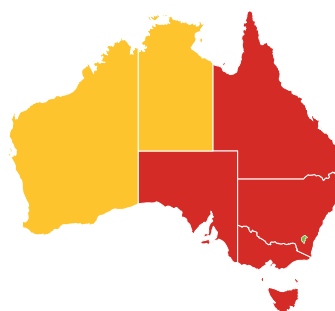
Amber

- 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.

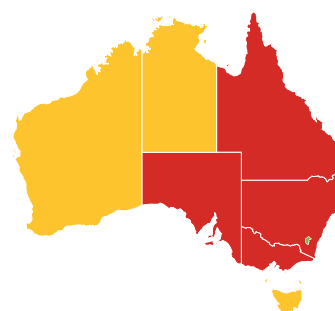
Current national status



Red

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

Previous national status



Red

NSW	Red
VIC	Red
QLD	Red
SA	Red
WA	Amber
TAS	Amber
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://bitre.gov.au/statistics/safety/fatal_road_crash_database.aspx, accessed on 14 October 2020; and Road Deaths Australia September 2020 monthly bulletin ISSN 1449-1168. Data on severe injuries were obtained from the Australian Trauma Registry.

Australia's road toll increases as drivers return to our roads

This report finds that road fatalities increased by 12.9 per cent from the previous quarter, which correlates with reports of increased travel and traffic, as people have been returning to the nation's roads during the most recent phase of COVID-19.

This report also confirms that in the final months of the current 10-year National Road Safety Strategy (NRSS), no state is on track to achieve its targets to reduce road deaths and serious injuries by 30 per cent by the end of 2020.

The AAA has repeatedly expressed disappointment at the lack of progress on the NRSS and the loss of life and injuries that have resulted from the Strategy's failings, which have been documented by the Australian Government's NRSS Inquiry and its recommended Governance Review.

The AAA has also previously called for a renewed national focus on road safety, with an urgent need for new initiatives and compliance measures, as a part of the next NRSS.

The recent federal Budget delivered a \$14 billion commitment to transport projects over the next four years and includes a new \$2 billion Road Safety Program which will provide funding to state and territory governments on a 'use it or lose it' basis. This should drive urgently needed investment in small scale road safety projects, particularly in regional areas.

As a part of this program, the AAA has also welcomed the federal government's undertaking that states and territories must commit to providing specific road fatality and injury data as a condition of funding. Providing detailed data will be critical to measuring the success of the next NRSS; and critical to policies that can be adjusted in a timely manner to save lives on the nation's roads.



Michael Bradley

Managing Director
Australian Automobile Association

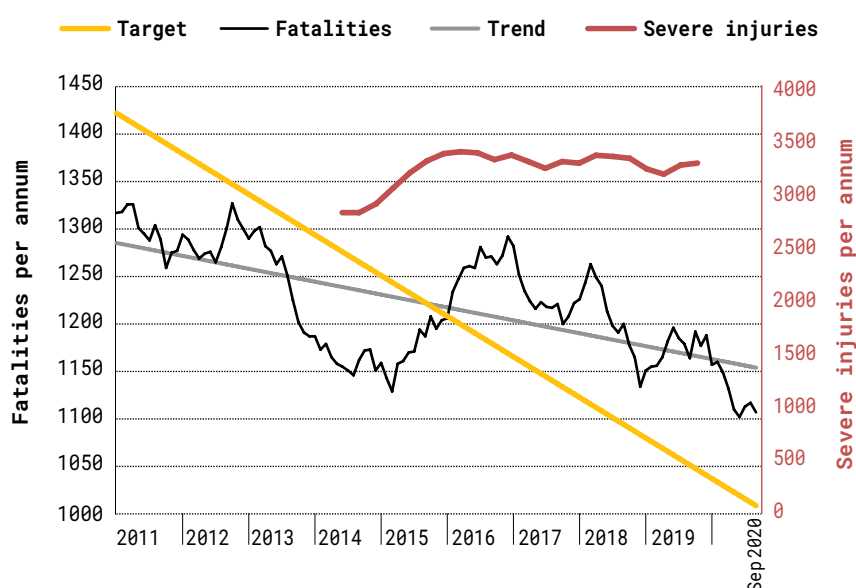


Section One

National overview

National (Australia) fatalities and severe injuries per annum

Red



As of September 2020, fatalities have reduced by 22.4 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 18.2 per cent.

Fatalities

There were 280 fatalities in the quarter ending September 2020; this was 12.9 per cent higher than the 248 deaths recorded in the previous quarter.

In the 12 months ended September 2020, there were 1,107 deaths on Australian roads.

This was a 4.9 per cent decrease from the 1,164 road deaths in the 12 months ended September 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 the AAA. The number of reported severe injuries in the 12 months to September 2019 was 3,289.

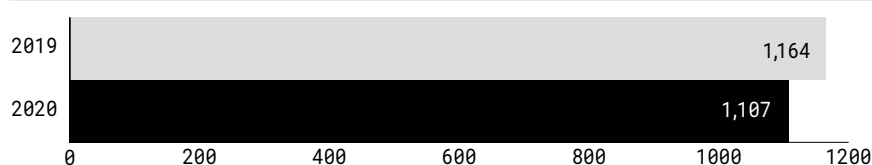
The ATR notes that variations in data may be due to improved data completeness and quality and this must be considered when interpreting the data.

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 the ATR.

Comparative performance: Road fatalities in the past 12 months



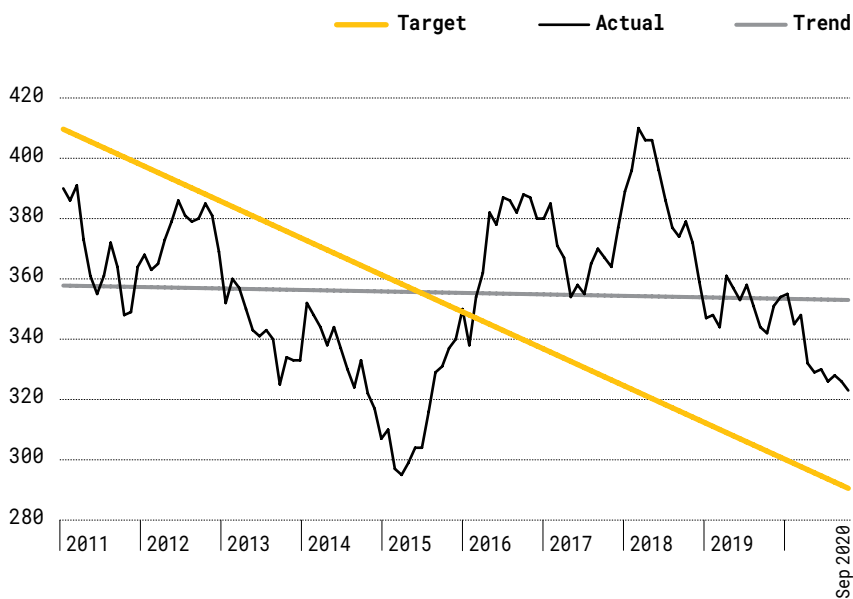
The national road toll for the 12 months ending September 2020 was 4.9 per cent lower than in the previous corresponding period.

Section Two

Analysis: States and territories

New South Wales fatalities per annum

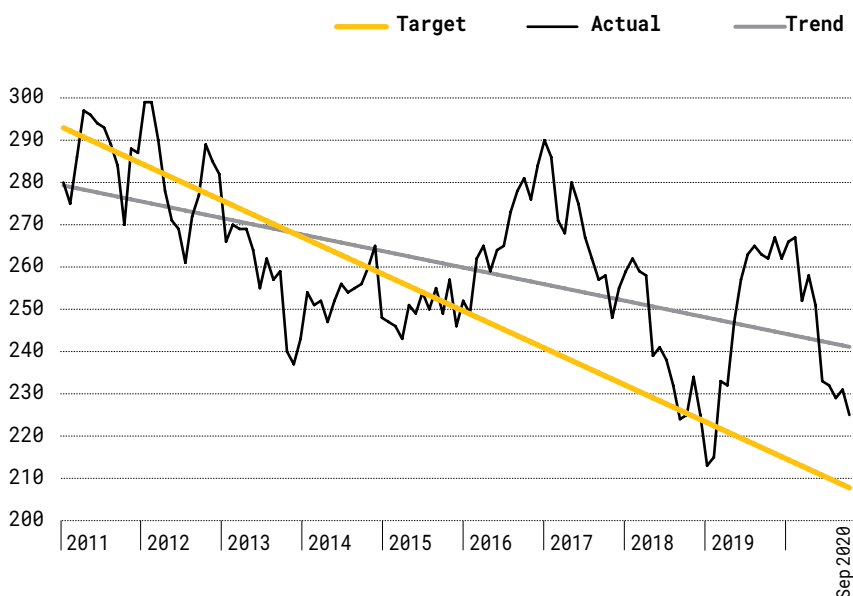
Red



- In the 12 months ending September 2020, 323 people died on NSW roads, compared to 342 in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a decrease of 5.6 per cent.

Victoria fatalities per annum

Red

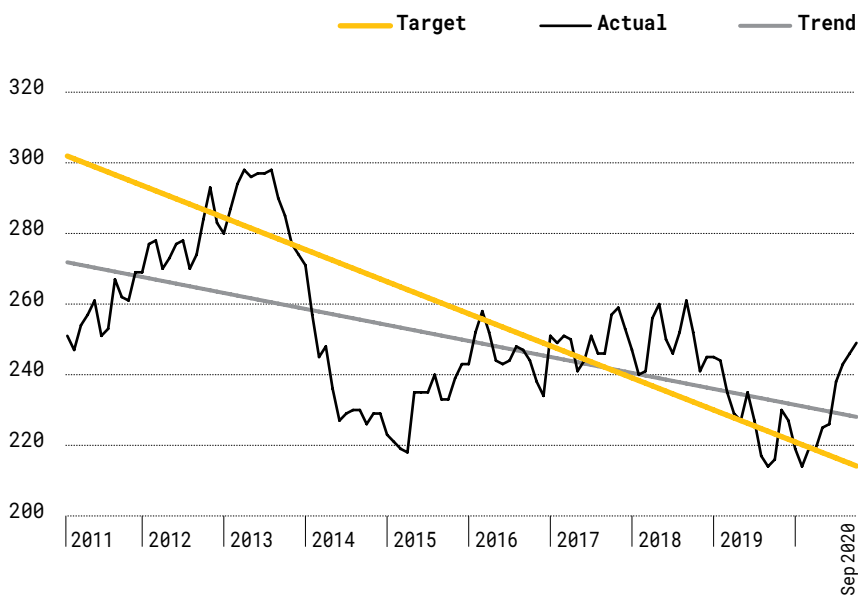


- In the 12 months to September 2020, 225 people died on Victorian roads, compared to 262 in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a decrease of 14.1 per cent.

Section Two

Queensland fatalities per annum

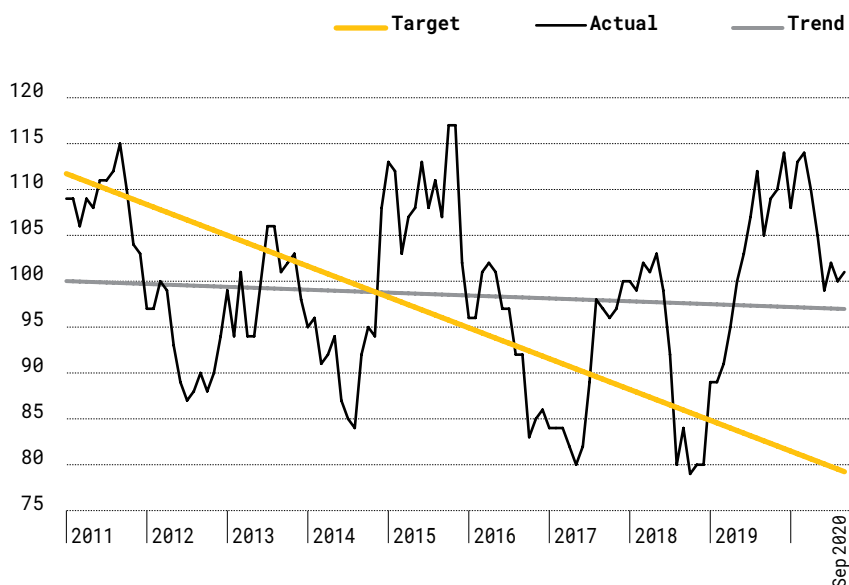
Red



- In the 12 months to September 2020, 249 people died on Queensland roads, up from 216 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is an increase of 15.3 per cent.

South Australia fatalities per annum

Red



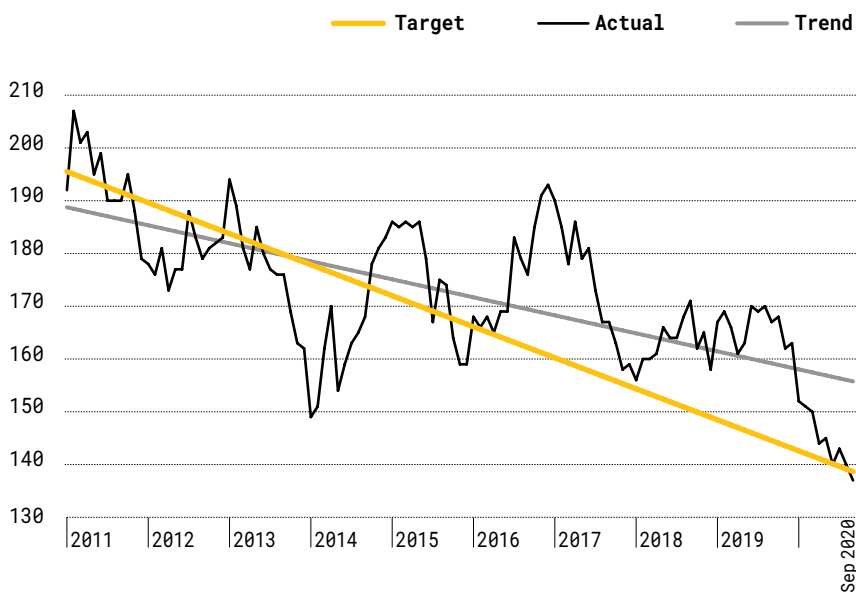
- In the 12 months to September 2020, 101 people died on South Australian roads, compared to 105 in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a decrease of 3.8 per cent.

Section Two

Analysis: States and territories

Western Australia fatalities per annum

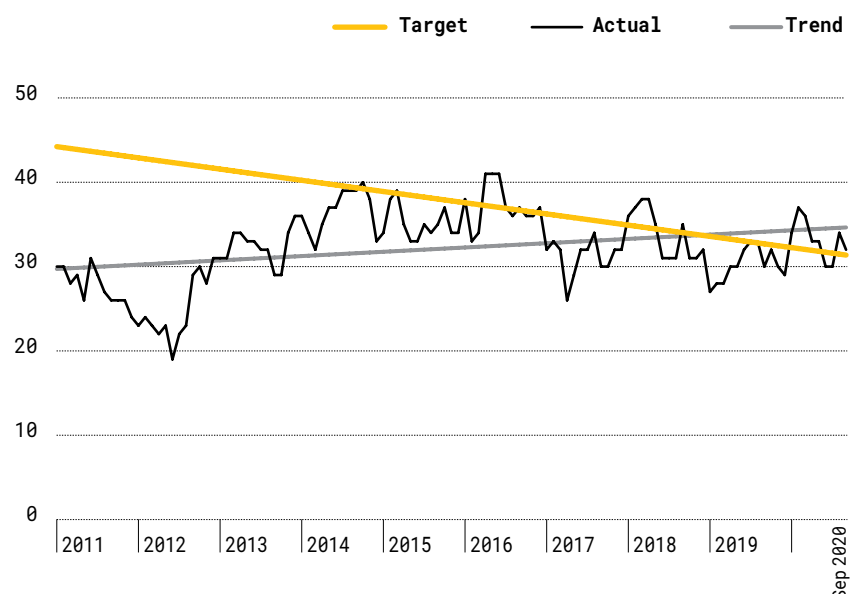
Amber



- In the 12 months to September 2020, 137 people died on Western Australian roads, compared to 167 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a decrease of 18 per cent.

Tasmania fatalities per annum

Red

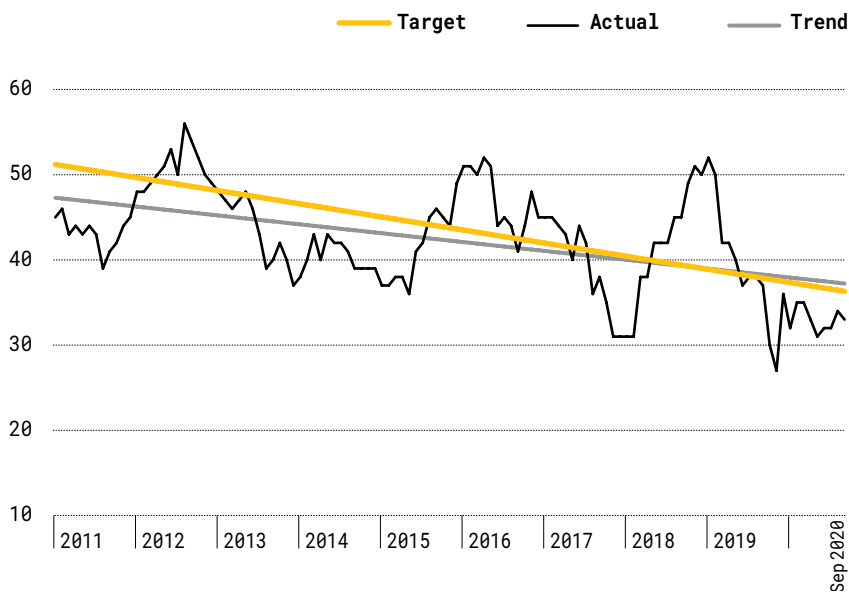


- In the 12 months ending September 2020, 32 people died on Tasmanian roads, compared to 30 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is an increase of 6.7 per cent.

Section Two

Northern Territory fatalities per annum

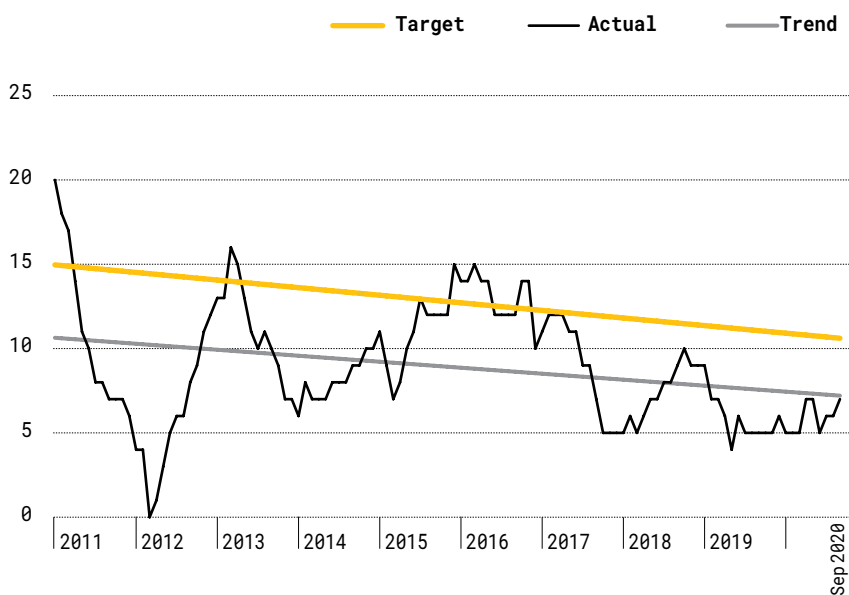
Amber



- In the 12 months to September 2020, 33 people died on Northern Territory roads, compared to 37 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a decrease of 10.8 per cent.

Australian Capital Territory fatalities per annum

Green



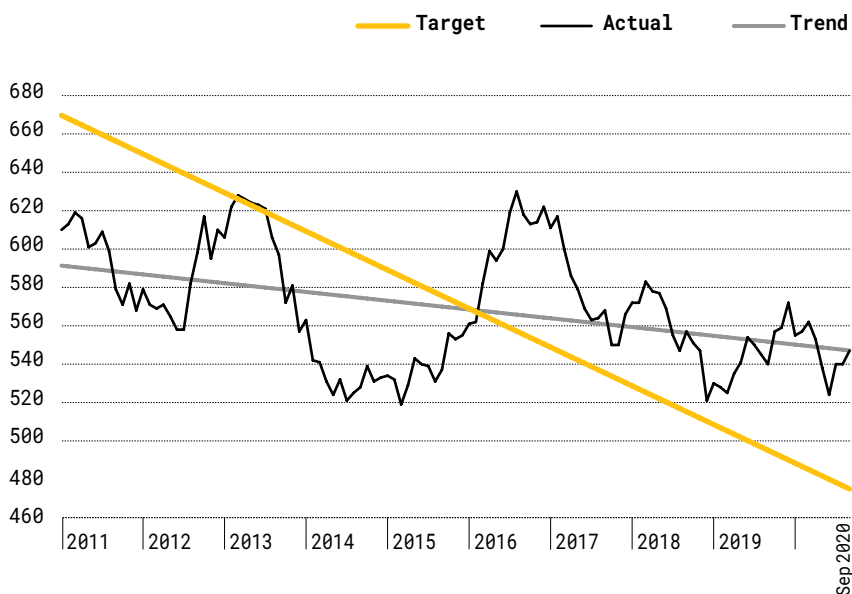
- In the 12 months to September 2020, 7 people died on ACT roads, compared to 5 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is an increase of 40 per cent.

Section Three

Analysis: Road user groups

Drivers fatalities per annum

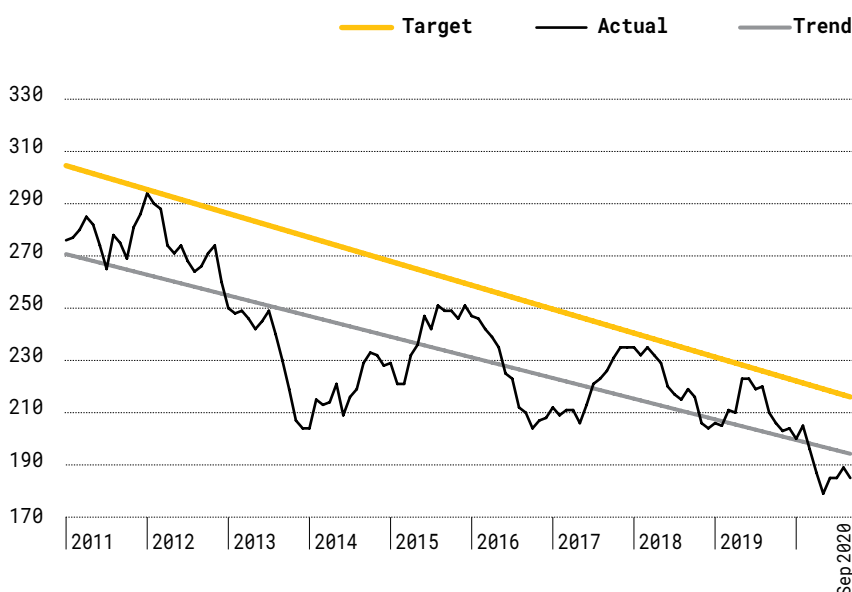
Red



- In the 12 months to September 2020, 547 drivers died on Australian roads, compared to 540 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is an increase of 1.3 per cent.

Passengers fatalities per annum

Green

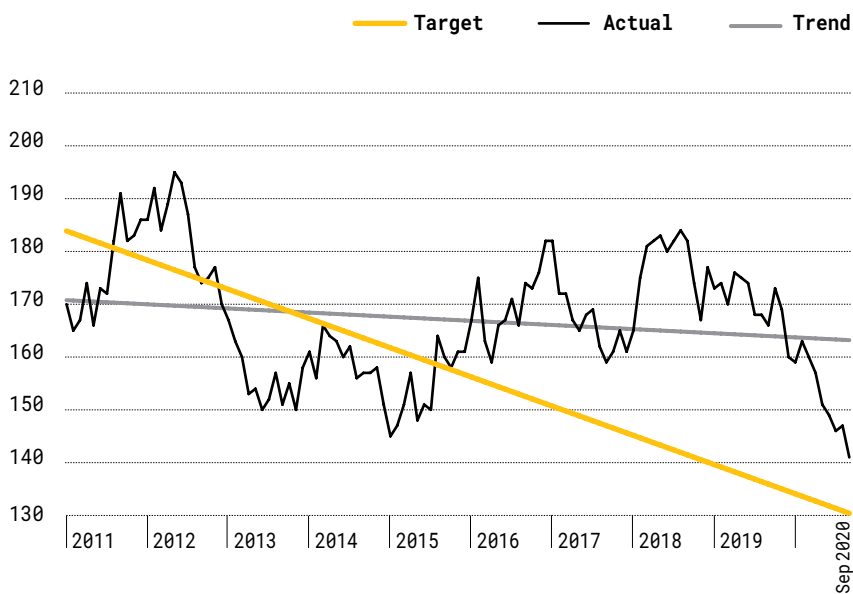


- In the 12 months to September 2020, 185 passengers died on Australian roads, compared with 210 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a decrease of 11.9 per cent.

Section Three

Pedestrians fatalities per annum

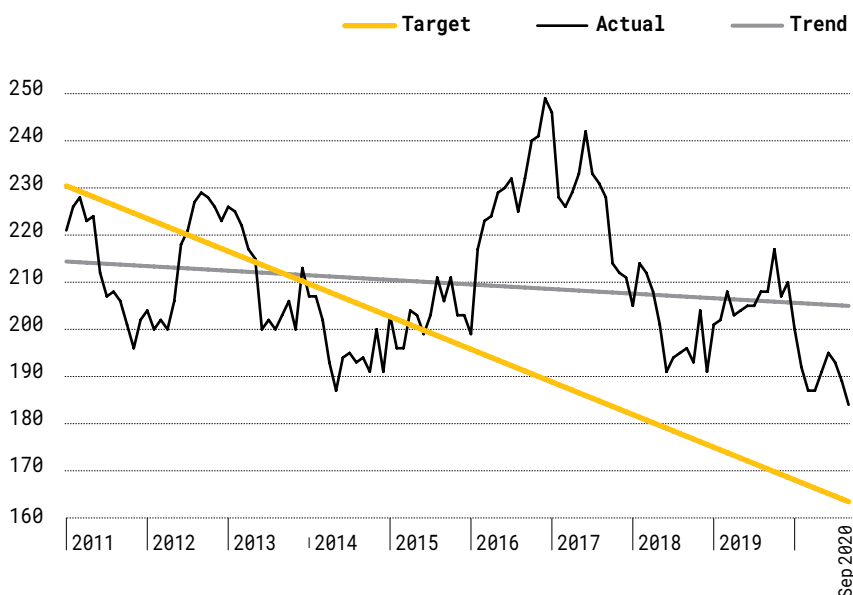
Red



- In the 12 months to September 2020, there were 141 pedestrian deaths on Australian roads, compared to 166 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a decrease of 15.1 per cent.

Motorcyclists fatalities per annum

Red



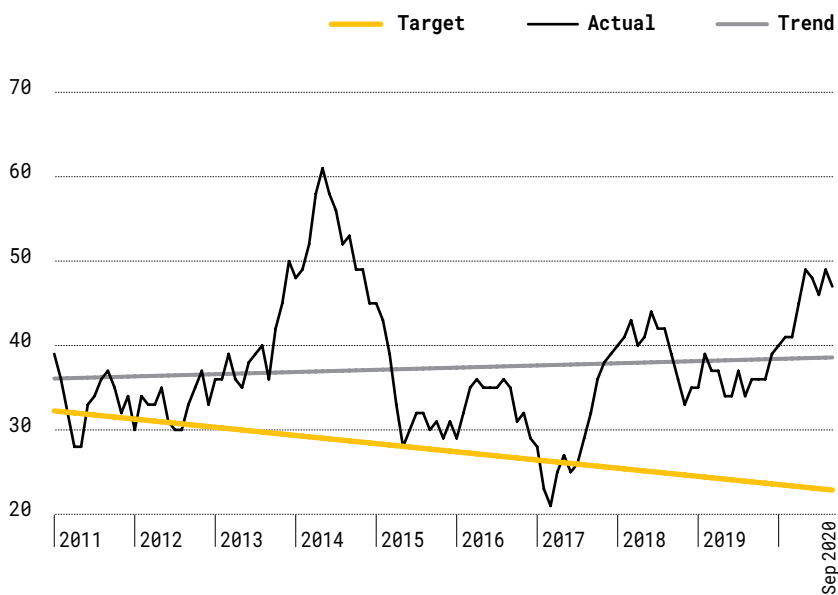
- In the 12 months to September 2020, there were 184 motorcyclist deaths on Australian roads, compared to 208 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a decrease of 11.5 per cent.

Section Three

Analysis: Road user groups

Cyclists fatalities per annum

Red

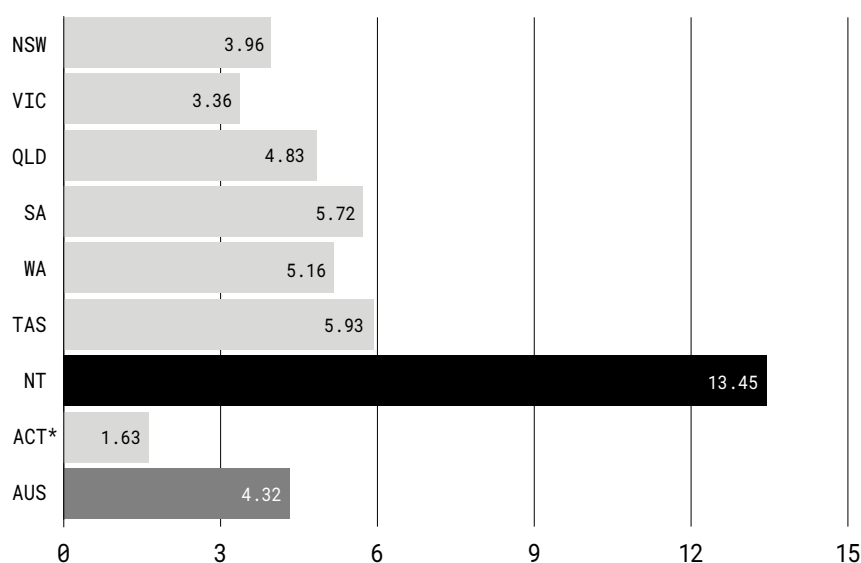


- In the 12 months to September 2020, 47 cyclists died on Australian roads, compared to 36 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is an increase of 30.6 per cent.

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 Queensland, 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 3.36 per 100,000 population	Potential lives saved*
NSW	323	3.96	274	49
VIC	225	3.36	225	0
QLD	249	4.83	173	76
SA	101	5.72	59	42
WA	137	5.16	89	48
TAS	32	5.93	18	14
NT	33	13.45	8	25
ACT*	7	1.63	7	0
National	1,107	4.32	854	253

If the other jurisdictions matched the Victorian fatality rate of 3.36 per 100,000 population, 253 lives could have been saved across Australia in the 12 months to September 2020:

- 49 in New South Wales
- 76 in Queensland
- 42 in South Australia
- 48 in Western Australia
- 14 in Tasmania
- 25 in the Northern Territory.

* In this scenario, any jurisdiction with a rate already lower than Victoria's (3.36) would not reduce its fatality rate.

Mailing Address:
GPO Box 1555
Canberra ACT 2601

02 6247 7311
@aaacomms
www.aaa.asn.au

Address:
103 Northbourne Ave
Canberra ACT 2601



Proudly supporting
Decade of Action for
Road Safety 2011–2020