

Benchmarking the Performance of the National Road Safety Strategy September Quarter 2025



Table of Contents

Key changes	Key changes since June 2025	4
Foreword	Australia's road deaths: September 2025	5
Section One	National overview	6
Section Two	Analysis: States and territories	10
Section Three	Analysis: Road user groups	14
Section Four	Analysis: Road deaths by population	18

In 2021, Australia's federal, state and territory governments agreed to the 10-year National Road Safety Strategy 2021–30 with new life-saving targets.

The NRSS has five headline targets that it aims to achieve by 2030:

- reducing road deaths by 50 per cent from a 2018–2020 baseline
- reducing serious injuries by 30 per cent from a 2018–2020 baseline
- zero road deaths of children aged seven years and under
- zero road deaths in city CBD areas zero road deaths on all national highways and on high-speed roads covering 80 per cent of travel across the network.

Key changes since June 2025

In the 12 months to 30 September 2025, road deaths were 6.8 per cent higher than in the previous corresponding period – 1,350 deaths, up from 1,264 deaths in the 12 months to 30 September 2024.

Road fatalities fell by 5.1 per cent from the June quarter (350 deaths) to the September quarter (332 deaths).

Australia remains off-track to achieve National Road Safety Strategy (NRSS) targets for reducing total deaths or deaths of children.

Poor data availability still makes it impossible to track progress on serious injuries, deaths on city CBD streets, and deaths on national highways and high-speed roads.

Strategy targets	Previous	Current
National deaths	Red	Red
National serious injuries	Black	Black
Children (7 years and under) deaths	Red	Red
City CBD area deaths	Black	Black
National highway and high-speed road deaths	Black	Black

Analytical key

Green

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

Amber

Currently ahead of pro rata target but a faster rate of improvement is required to achieve NRSS target by 2030.

Red

Road crash deaths are above the pro rata NRSS target.

Black

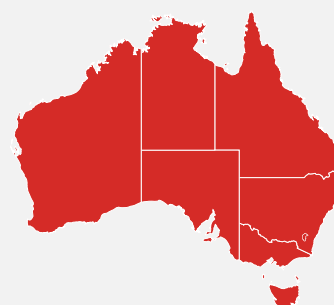
NRSS target progress cannot be measured due to a lack of data availability.

Previous: Jurisdictional status



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

Current: Jurisdictional status



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

User groups	Previous	Current
Drivers	Red	Red
Passengers	Red	Red
Pedestrians	Red	Red
Motorcyclists	Red	Red
Cyclists	Red	Red

The data indicate no jurisdiction or road user group is on track to achieve any of the headline targets by 2030.

Australia's road deaths: September 2025

The NRSS continues to fail. Governments must change course.

Australia's National Road Safety Strategy 2021–30 aims to halve road deaths through the decade to 2030. Yet Australia's 12-month road toll is now 18.2 per cent higher than the strategy's 2018–2020 baseline. No state or territory is on track to meet its NRSS targets.

In the 12 months to 30 September 2025, 1,350 people died on Australian roads. This is 6.8 per cent higher than the previous corresponding period's 1,264 death toll, which itself was 4 per cent higher than the 1,215 total crash fatalities in the 12 months to 30 September 2023.

Road deaths rose in six of the eight states and territories – Tasmania (up 20%), NSW (14.4%), the ACT (14.3%), Queensland (12.9%), Western Australia (7.8%) and Victoria (1.4%). Crash fatalities declined in the Northern Territory (down 35.5%). South Australia's 12-monthly road death tally remained unchanged.

In this period, pedestrian deaths rose by 23.4% and there were more pedestrian deaths than passenger deaths (206 compared to 205).

We don't know why pedestrian deaths have risen so sharply. Nor do we know how South Australia has reduced its road deaths since September 2023 (from 102 to 92) while all other states have had rising fatalities over that period.

It's unclear what factors are driving these changes in road deaths patterns. Australia needs much better information to target its road safety interventions and reduce road trauma. The AAA urges the Commonwealth to establish a national body charged with no-blame investigations that:

- interrogates road safety data, including information on causal factors
- identifies trends, unaddressed road safety issues and emerging issues
- recommends actions to reduce future road deaths and injuries.

The National Road Safety Strategy is failing. Governments must consider what steps they can take to make it more effective.



Michael Bradley

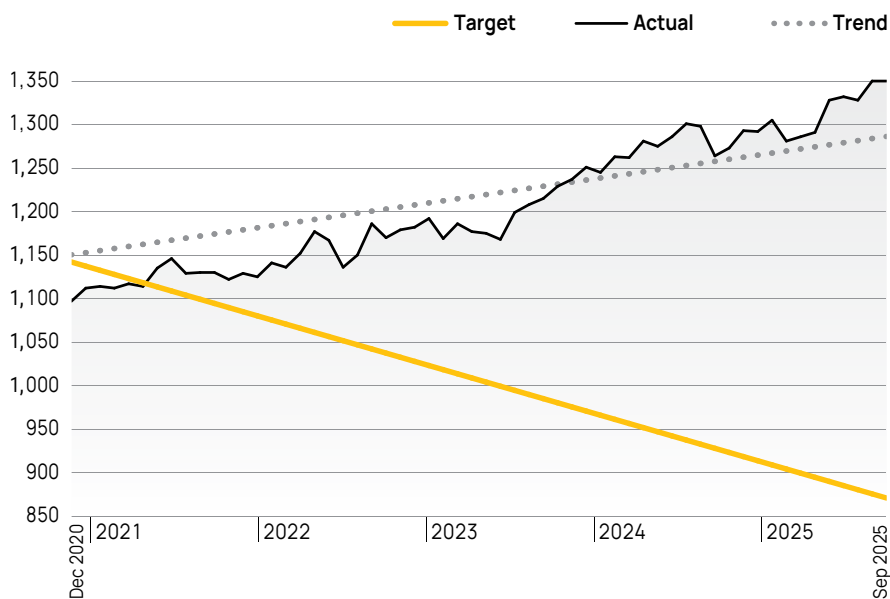
Managing Director
Australian Automobile
Association

National overview

The federal, state and territory governments have endorsed the NRSS 2021–30. The strategy aims to reduce road deaths by 50 per cent and serious injuries by 30 per cent by 2030, compared to the baseline, which is the average of road deaths and injuries between 2018 and 2020. Trendlines shown in graphs throughout this report were calculated using data on fatalities since December 2018.

The NRSS also aims to, by 2030, achieve zero road deaths among children aged seven years and under; in city CBD areas; on all national highways and on high-speed roads covering 80 per cent of travel across the network.

National deaths per annum

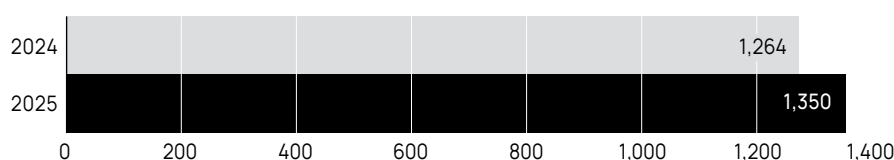


RED

In the 12 months ending 30 September 2025, 1,350 people died on Australian roads. That is 18.2 per cent higher than the NRSS baseline (1,142 deaths), and 23.1 per cent higher than the 12-month road deaths to 31 December 2020.

The latest 12-monthly figure is 479 more road deaths than the notional pro rata target of no more than 871 fatalities, which would have been the road toll in the 12 months to September 2025 if the NRSS was following a smooth trajectory towards its 2030 target.

Comparative performance: Road deaths in the past 12 months

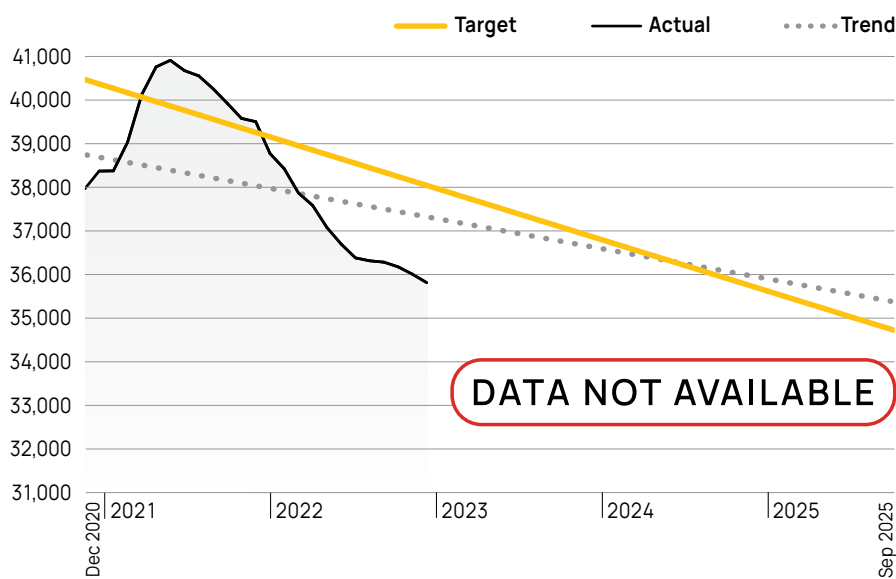


National road deaths for the 12 months ending September 2025 were 6.8 per cent higher than in the previous corresponding period.

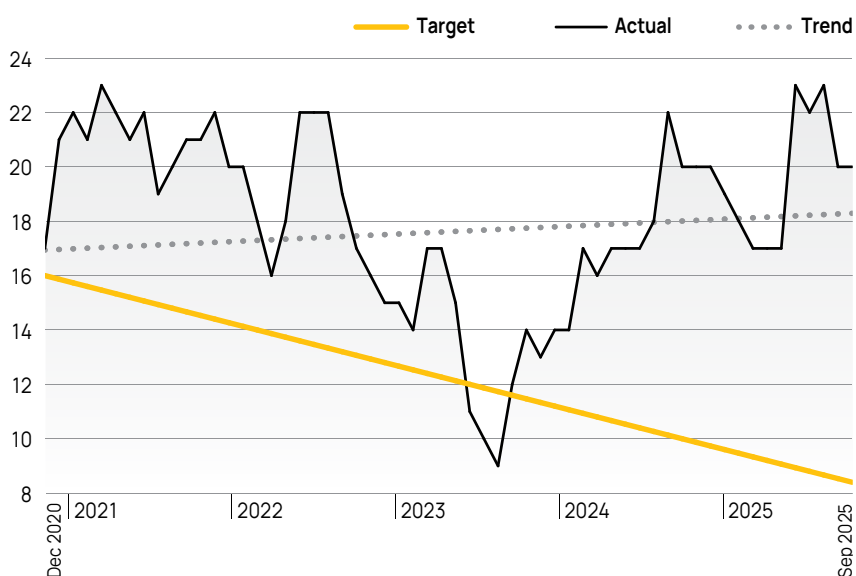
Road deaths by state and territory

Jurisdiction	Road deaths 12 months to 30 September 2024	Road deaths 12 months to 30 September 2025	Change	% change	Difference from NRSS September 2025 pro rata target*
NSW	320	366	+46	14.4%	44.7%
VIC	290	294	+4	1.4%	67.0%
QLD	278	314	+36	12.9%	67.0%
SA	92	92	0	0.0%	26.0%
WA	180	194	+14	7.8%	60.3%
TAS	35	42	+7	20.0%	68.0%
NT	62	40	-22	-35.5%	37.9%
ACT	7	8	+1	14.3%	33.3%
Australia	1,264	1,350	86	6.8%	55.0%

* The notional target for the 12 months to 30 September 2025 if the NRSS was on a smooth trajectory towards its 2030 target. (Source: Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics Australian Road Deaths Database, accessed 14 October 2025)

National serious injuries per annum**BLACK**

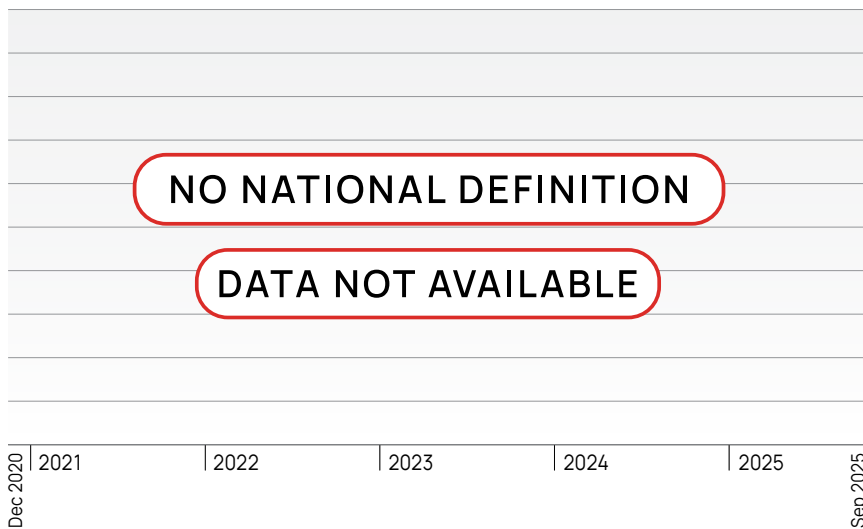
Limited data availability makes it impossible to track the incidence of serious injuries – let alone progress on this target – since 2022.

Children (seven years and under) deaths per annum**RED**

In the 12 months ended 30 September 2025, 20 children (seven years and under) died on Australian roads. This is the same number of deaths as in the previous corresponding period.

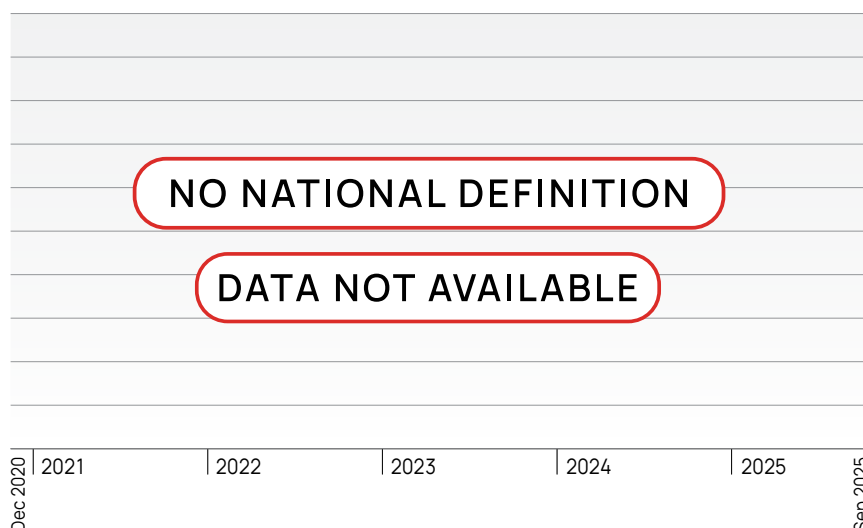
Deaths in this category are higher than they were when the NRSS 2021–30 began. The latest 12-monthly figure is 12 deaths more than the notional pro rata target for this stage of the NRSS, which is no more than eight deaths.

City CBD area deaths per annum

BLACK

The relevant data is unavailable, and Australia has no national definition of city CBD areas. Therefore, it is impossible to track road deaths in city CBDs and the progress towards the target.

National highway and high-speed road deaths per annum

BLACK

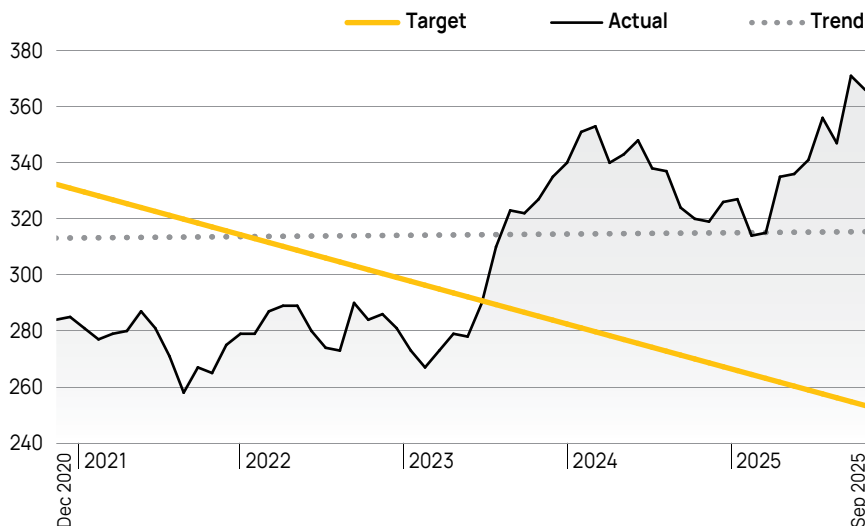
It is not possible to track road deaths on all national highways and high-speed roads covering 80 per cent of travel across the network. The relevant data is unavailable and there is no national definition of national highways and high-speed roads.

Analysis:

States and territories

While the NRSS has no specific target reductions for individual states and territories, this report measures jurisdictions' progress in achieving a 50 per cent reduction in road deaths by 2030 in line with the headline NRSS target.

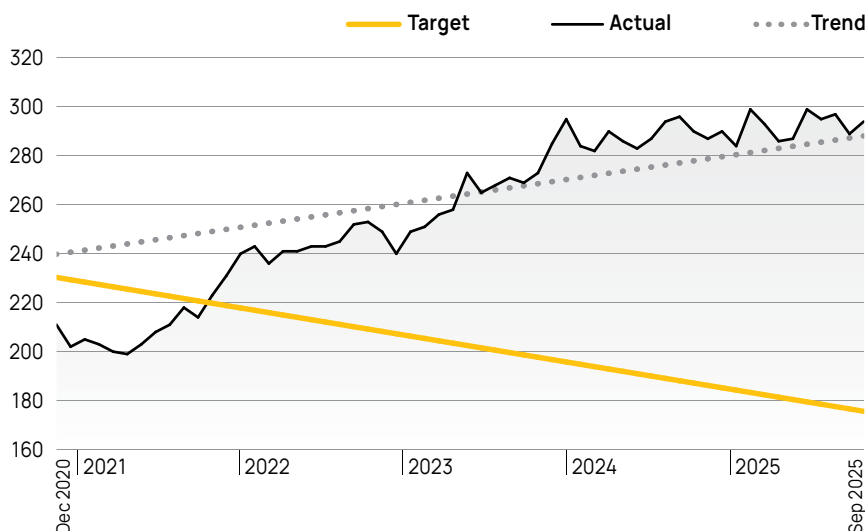
New South Wales deaths per annum



RED

- In the 12 months to 30 September 2025, 366 people died on New South Wales roads, 46 more than in the previous corresponding period – a 14.4 per cent increase.
- This is 113 more road deaths than the state's notional pro rata target of no more than 253 for this stage of the NRSS.

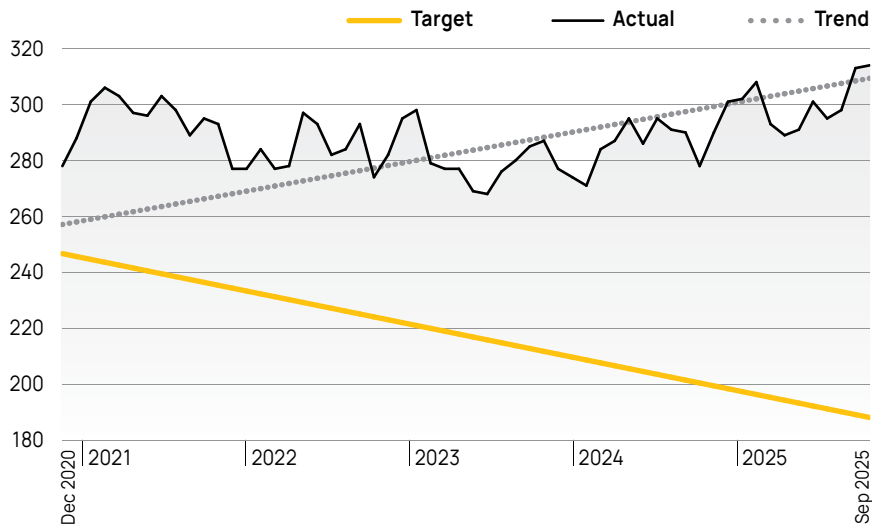
Victoria deaths per annum



RED

- In the 12 months to 30 September 2025, 294 people died on Victoria's roads, up from 290 in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a 1.4 per cent increase, and it is 118 more road deaths than the pro rata target of no more than 176 deaths for this stage of the NRSS.

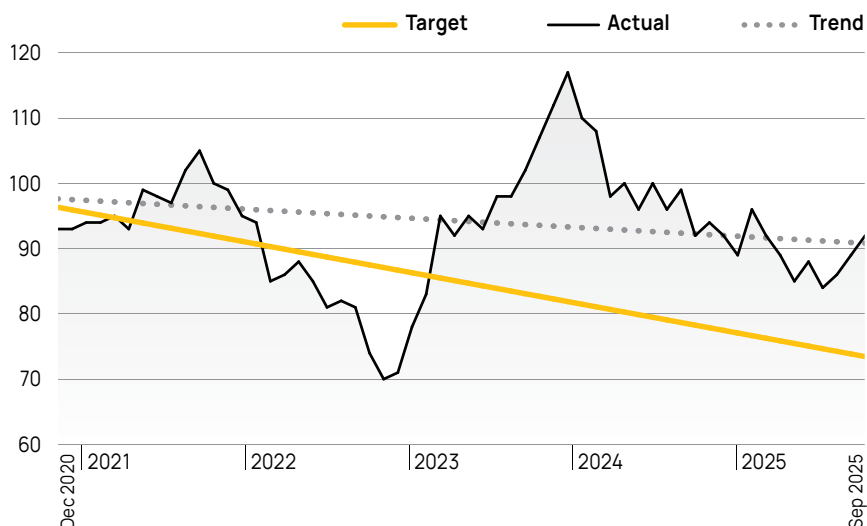
Queensland deaths per annum



RED

- In the 12 months to 30 September 2025, 314 people died on Queensland roads, up from 278 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a 12.9 per cent increase.
- Queensland's 12-month road toll is 126 more deaths than its notional pro rata target of no more than 188 fatalities for this stage of the NRSS.

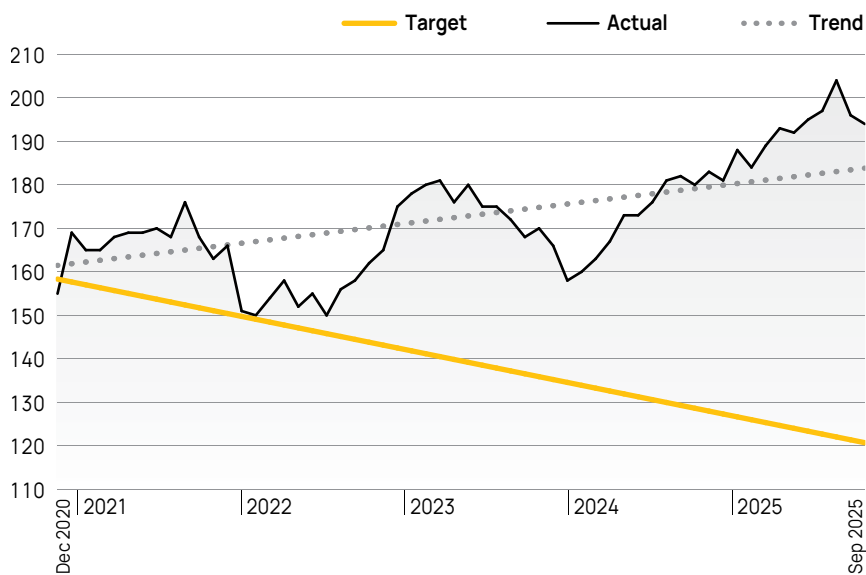
South Australia deaths per annum



RED

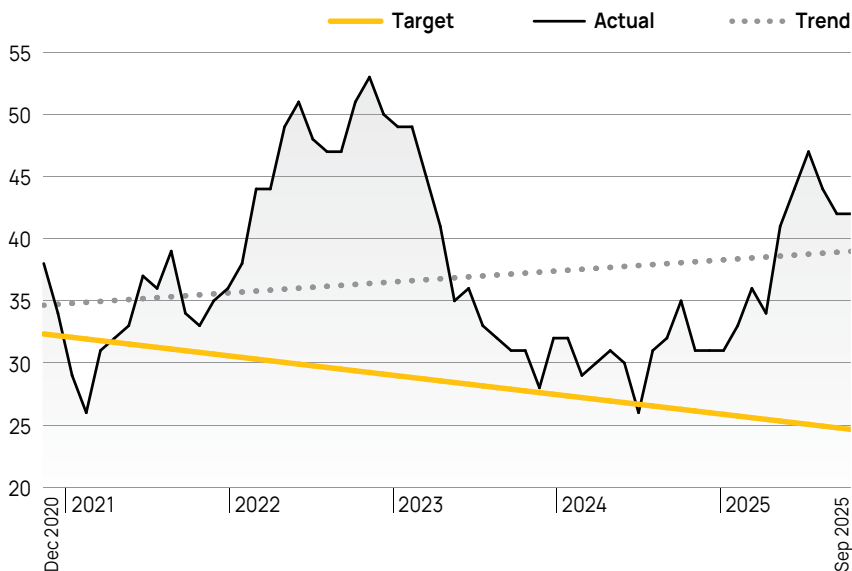
- In the 12 months to 30 September 2025, 92 people died on South Australia's roads, unchanged from the previous corresponding period.
- This is 19 more road deaths than the state's notional pro rata target of no more than 73 deaths for this stage of the NRSS.

Western Australia deaths per annum

**RED**

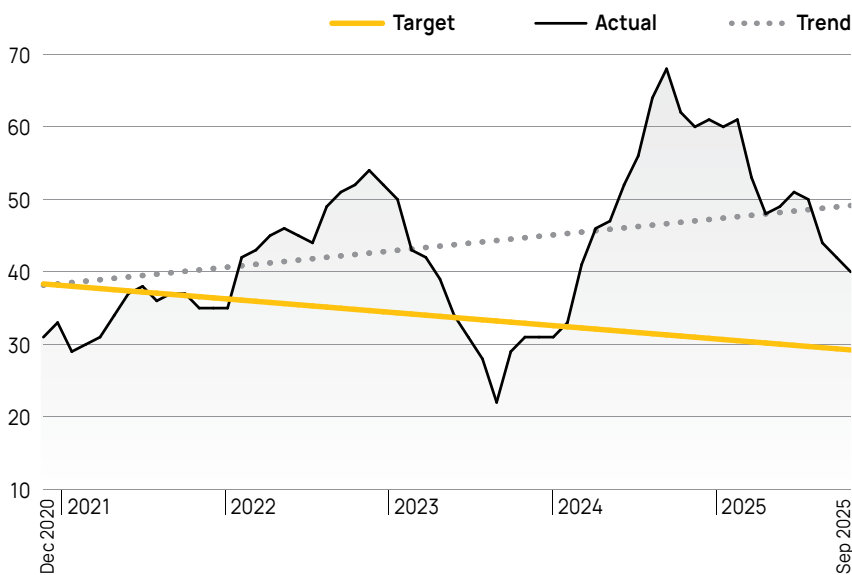
- In the 12 months to 30 September 2025, 194 people died on Western Australia's roads – up from 180 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a 7.8 per cent increase.
- WA's road toll for this period is 73 more deaths than the state's notional pro rata target of no more than 121 fatalities for this stage of the NRSS.

Tasmania deaths per annum

**RED**

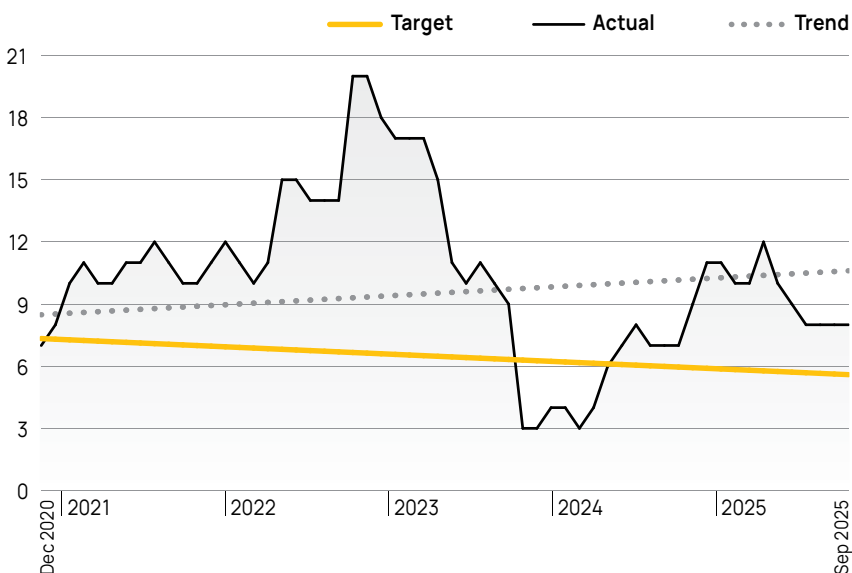
- In the 12 months to 30 September 2025, 42 people died on Tasmania's roads – up from 35 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a 20.0 per cent increase.
- Tasmania's 12-month road toll is 17 more deaths than the state's notional pro rata target of no more than 25 fatalities for this stage of the NRSS.

Northern Territory deaths per annum

**RED**

- In the 12 months to 30 September 2025, 40 people died on the Northern Territory's roads – down from 62 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a 35.5 per cent decrease.
- But the Territory's road toll for the 12 months to September is 11 more road deaths than its notional pro rata target of no more than 29 deaths for this stage of the NRSS.

Australian Capital Territory deaths per annum

**RED**

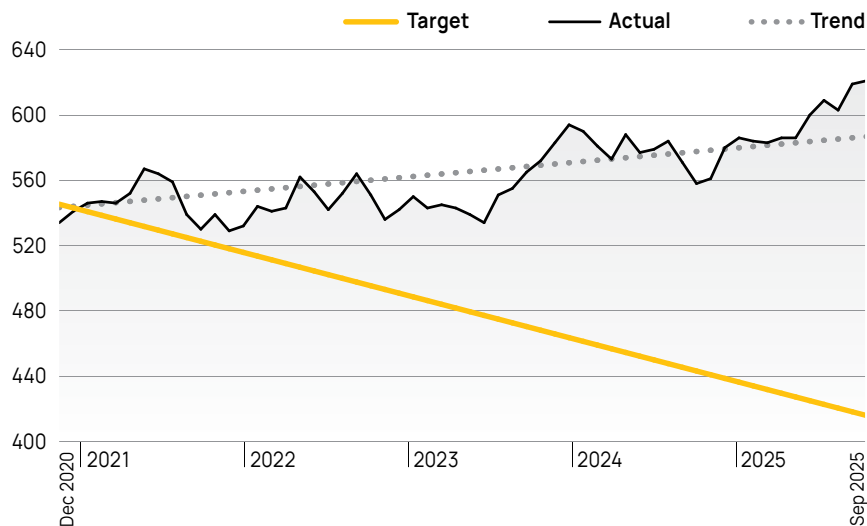
- In the 12 months to 30 September 2025, eight people died on the Australian Capital Territory's roads, up from seven deaths in the previous corresponding period, a 14.3 per cent increase.
- This is two more road deaths than the ACT's notional pro rata target of no more than six deaths for this stage of the NRSS.

Analysis:

Road user groups

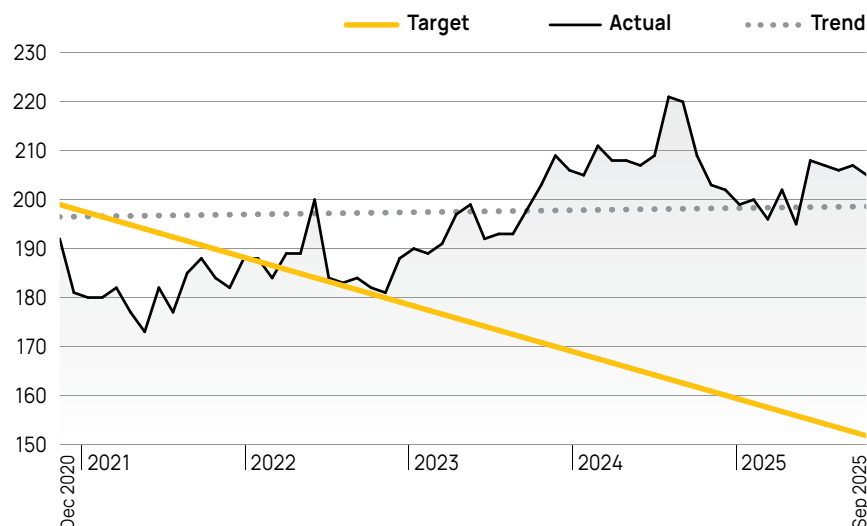
While the NRSS has no specific target reductions for individual road user groups, this report measures the progress in achieving a 50 per cent reduction in road deaths by 2030 among various road user groups in line with the headline NRSS target.

Driver deaths per annum


RED

- In the 12 months to 30 September 2025, 621 drivers died on Australian roads – up from 558 deaths in the previous corresponding period.
- This is an 11.3 per cent increase.

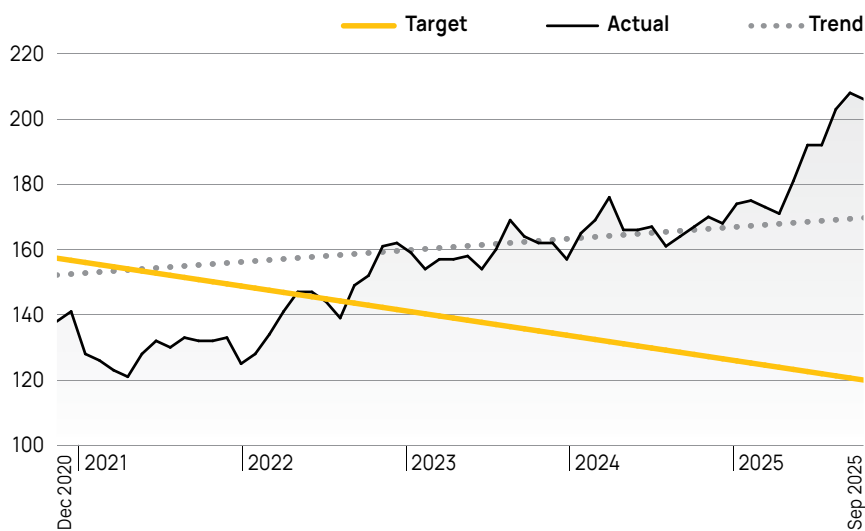
Passenger deaths per annum


RED

- In the 12 months to 30 September 2025, 205 passengers died on Australian roads – down from 209 in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a 1.9 per cent decrease.



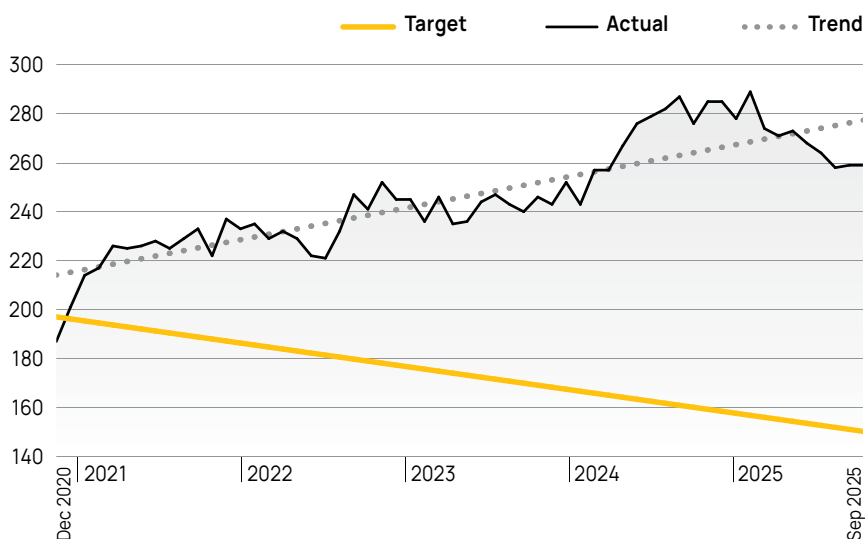
Pedestrian deaths per annum



RED

- In the 12 months to 30 September 2025, 206 pedestrians died on Australian roads – up from 167 in the previous corresponding period.
- This is an increase of 23.4 per cent.
- This is the highest 12-month pedestrian death toll since September 2007's 207 fatalities, making this figure a 15-year high.

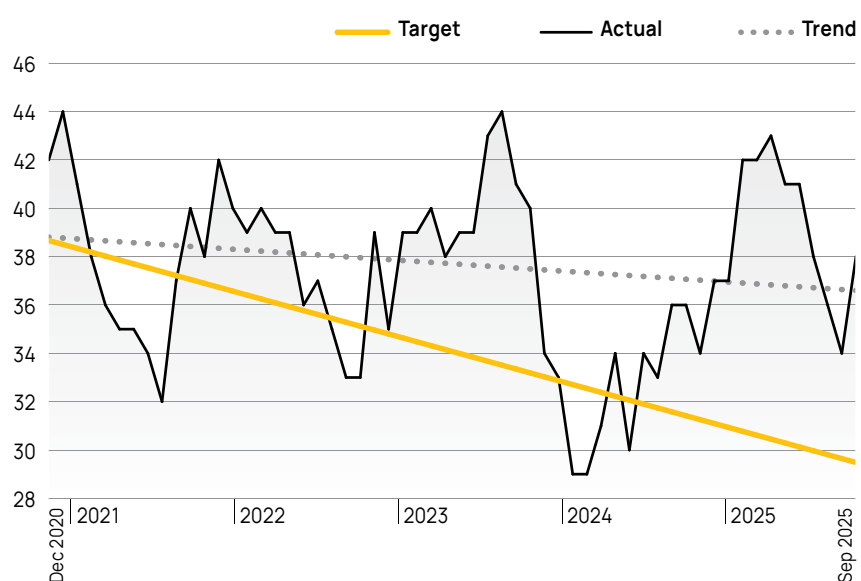
Motorcyclist deaths per annum



RED

- In the 12 months to 30 September 2025, 259 motorcyclists died on Australian roads – down from 276 in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a 6.2 per cent decrease.

Cyclist deaths per annum



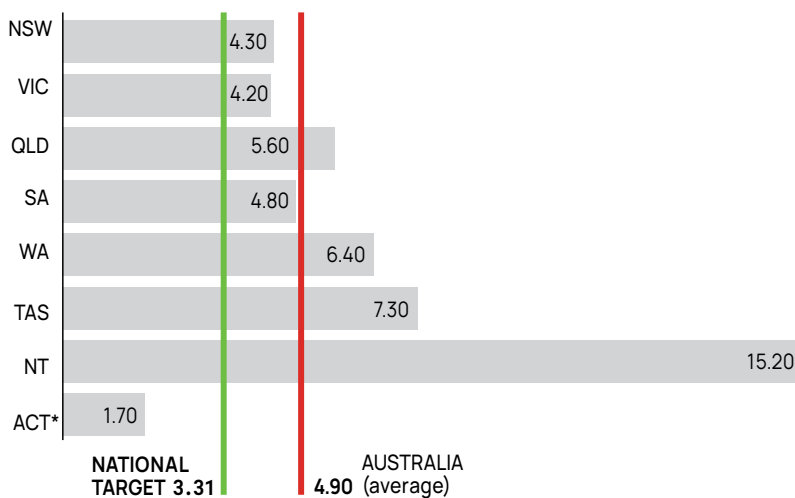
RED

- In the 12 months to 30 September 2025, 38 cyclists died on Australian roads – up from 36 in the previous corresponding period.
- This is a 5.6 per cent increase.

Analysis: Road deaths by population

Annual road deaths per 100,000 population (12 months to 30 September 2025)

RED



The NRSS targets include an approximate 55 per cent reduction in the national fatality rate to less than two road deaths per 100,000 people. The data indicate Australia is not on track to achieve this target.

Fatality rates among individual states and territories are useful in helping determine priority areas. The data show that Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory have more road deaths per head of population than the national average.

Analysis: Potential lives saved

Annual road deaths per 100,000 population (12 months to 30 September 2025)

	Total deaths	Current fatality rate per 100,000 population	Number of deaths at 4.2 per 100,000 population	Potential lives saved
NSW	366	4.3	357	9
VIC	294	4.2	294	0
QLD	314	5.6	236	78
SA	92	4.8	81	11
WA	194	6.4	127	67
TAS	42	7.3	24	18
NT	40	15.2	11	29
ACT*	8	1.7	8	0
National	1,350	4.9	1138	212

If all other jurisdictions (excluding the ACT) had matched the Victorian fatality rates of 4.2 per 100,000 population, 212 lives could have been saved across Australia in the 12 months to 30 September 2025.

- 9 in New South Wales
- 78 in Queensland
- 11 in South Australia
- 67 in Western Australia
- 18 in Tasmania
- 29 in the Northern Territory

* For this analysis ACT is excluded when considering lowest fatality rate jurisdictions as its geography and mix of road types makes it unrepresentative of Australian states and territories.

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 2025.

Mailing Address:
GPO Box 1555
Canberra ACT 2601

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

Address:
103 Northbourne Ave
Canberra ACT 2601