

Development of a New NSW Road Safety Plan and Integration with Transport Planning Outcomes through the Future Transport Strategy

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Abstract

A new Road Safety Plan 2021 (the Plan) has been developed to set new road safety priorities and actions that will help NSW work toward the State Priority target of a 30% reduction in road fatalities by 2021. Development of the Plan relied on detailed understanding of crash trauma, robust evidence gathering, and extensive consultation.

The Plan outlines key road safety priority areas and related measures to be implemented. Measures included in the Plan align with the Future Transport Strategy directions and vision of zero trauma for all transport customers and road users.

Background

The NSW Road Safety Strategy 2012-2021 establishes the ten-year direction of road safety in NSW. Through its delivery, significant reductions in fatalities have been achieved, with 307 fatalities in 2014 representing the lowest number since 1923. However, successive annual increases have been observed since then. The new Plan was released in February 2018 and has been developed to refocus road safety activities in NSW toward achievement of targets.

Transport for NSW has also refreshed its approach to long-term transport planning with the development of the Future Transport Strategy, and the Plan has been developed to align with its implementation.

This paper outlines the steps taken to develop the Plan, the key priority areas identified, and its relationship to the development of the Future Transport Strategy.

Development of the new Plan

The following steps contributed to development of the Plan:

- Detailed review of current NSW road trauma statistics and evidence
- Review of best practice to identify initiatives to achieve a 30% reduction in deaths by 2021 and further reductions in the long term
- Consultation with the NSW Government's Road Safety Advisory Council
- Consultation with expert researchers, practitioners and key stakeholder groups
- Community consultations.

Priority areas

The Plan identifies the following priority areas:

- Saving lives on country roads – Proven road safety infrastructure can significantly improve safety, particularly on country roads that can lack protective safety features.

- Liveable and safe urban communities – Our vibrant ‘people’ places need design and infrastructure that supports safe driving, walking and riding.
- Using the roads safely – Action is needed to address trauma involving situations where people make mistakes or behave in a way that increases crash risk.
- Building a safer community culture – Individuals, organisations, key sectors and government must actively collaborate to ensure shared responsibility for road safety.
- New and proven vehicle technology – Newer technologies, such as lane departure warning, are proven life-savers and need to become more common in the fleet.
- Building a safe future – The way we plan, develop, design, operate and maintain roads plays a key role in reducing the risk of road trauma.

Integration with the Future Transport Strategy

Safety is a key part of creating a sustainable transport network, and the draft Future Transport Strategy for NSW sets an aspirational target of zero trauma on the transport system by 2056 .

Measures in the Plan align with the directions of the Future Transport Strategy and the vision of zero trauma for all transport customers and road users. This will assist with embedding safety principles through all transport initiatives and across the whole transport network. Close cooperation between transport partners who play a key role in the safety of the road system is important for working toward the vision of zero trauma.

Next Steps

The focus will now be on delivery of priority actions included in the Plan. In doing so, continued efforts will be made to ensure relevant actions are delivered through better integration with broader transport planning work across NSW and other priorities included in the draft Future Transport Strategy.