



BENCHMARKING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY



Australian
Automobile
Association

June 2018



Table of contents

Key Changes	Key Changes Since March 2018 Report	4
Foreword	Australia's Road Toll: June 2018	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 March 2018 Report

Road fatalities declined by 14.9 per cent from the March 2018 quarter to the June 2018 quarter.

But the 12 months to June 2018 saw no real decrease in road fatalities compared to the corresponding period in 2017 (1,222 deaths in 2017-18, compared to 1,223 deaths in 2016-17). 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	Red
QLD	Red
SA	Red
WA	Red
TAS	Red
NT	Red
ACT	Green

Previous National Status

Red



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

User Groups

Previous

Current

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, accessed on 16 July 2018 and Road Deaths Australia June 2018 monthly bulletin ISSN 1449-1168. The Australian Trauma Registry (ATR) has provided data on severe injuries.

Foreword

Australia's Road Toll: June 2018

The continued failure of our national approach to road safety is borne out in this quarter's Benchmarking of the National Road Safety Strategy report.

All states and the Northern Territory are now set to miss the Strategy's fatality reduction target agreed to by all governments in 2011. This is the worst result so far recorded by the AAA's benchmarking process and underscores the need for greater federal road safety oversight to help reduce deaths on the nation's roads.

With two years of the NRSS to go, fatalities remain far higher than the rate needed to meet the strategy's target.

The AAA's benchmarking report finds that in the year to June 2018, all states continue to record red light warnings as fatalities remain above the notional NRSS target.

The Northern Territory, which in the previous quarter had recorded an orange light code, now joins the states as a red-light jurisdiction.

Only the ACT remains ahead of the notional target, recording a green light code.

There was no real decrease in fatalities in the 12 months to June 2018 – 1,222 Australians died on our roads, compared to 1,223 fatalities in the previous financial year.

Cyclist fatalities in 2017-18 have increased by 80 per cent compared with the previous 12 months and are now higher than at the start of the Strategy.

The AAA's Benchmarking report tracks progress against the NRSS target of reducing road deaths by at least 30 per cent by 2020. All Australian governments committed to this strategy in 2011.

Of course, road trauma extends much further than fatalities. Until now, the number of Australians sustaining serious road crash injuries has been largely unknown.

This edition of the Benchmarking report incorporates data on severe injuries from road traffic crashes from the Australian Trauma Registry. Severe injuries are a small proportion of serious injuries.

The Australian Trauma Registry (ATR) is a collaborative project that collects data from 26 trauma centres around Australia. The data in this publication is only available with the cooperation of all the collaborating sites, and by approval of the ATR Steering Committee. Strict guidelines have been applied to its use.

While results are currently only available for certain years, it is hoped that further work will provide data on injuries of other severities closer to real-time, with this data enabling a better understanding of road trauma and the extent of its impact.

The AAA's recent submission to the NRSS inquiry has made several recommendations. The AAA urges the Australian Government to take immediate action to reduce the level of road trauma. Re-establishing federal oversight of the NRSS would be a sensible first step in ensuring the agreed strategies and programs are effectively implemented across the country.



Michael Bradley

Chief Executive
Australian Automobile Association

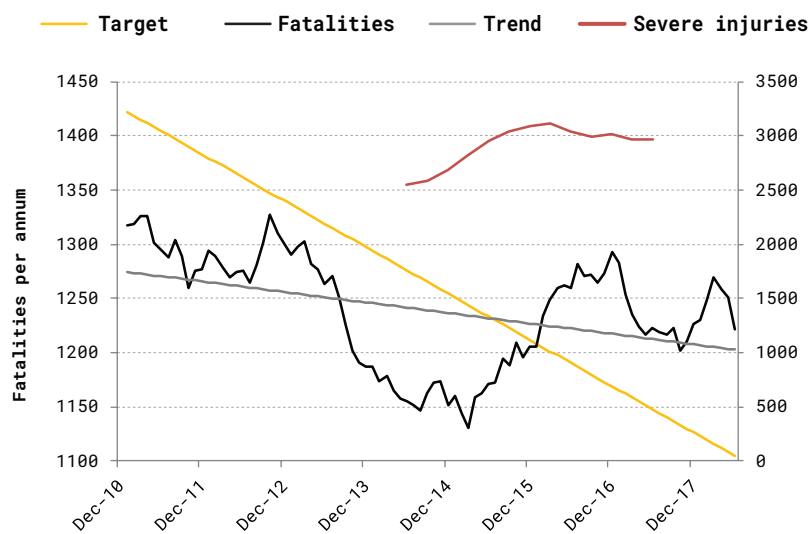


Section One

National Overview

National (Australia) fatalities and severe injuries per annum

Red



The NRSS aims to achieve a reduction of at least 30 per cent in road fatalities and serious injuries by 2020. Since the road safety strategy began, there has been a 9.7 per cent decline in the 12-month road toll, which is far below the rate required to achieve the 2020 target.

In the 12 months ended June 2018, there were 1,222 fatalities on Australian roads, a tiny decrease from 1,223 in the previous calendar year. There were 258 fatalities in the quarter ending June 2018, representing a 14.9 per cent decrease on the 303 recorded in the quarter ending March 2018. In contrast, the 2017 June quarter posted an 18.8% increase in fatalities compared with the previous quarter.

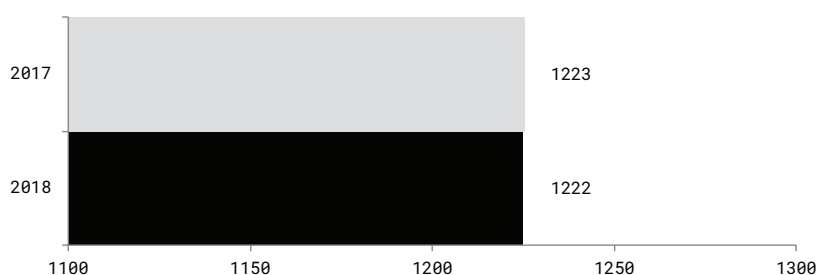
The current edition of the Benchmarking Report also includes data on severe injuries from on-road (traffic) crashes. Severe injuries are a subset of serious injuries. National data for severe injuries are included for the period up until June 2017.

The number of severe injuries in the 12 months to June 2017 is 2.6 per cent lower than in the 12 months to June 2016, however this trend does not appear to be on track to reduce by 30% in line with the NRSS.

The ATR notes that variations in data may be due to improved data completeness and quality and must be considered when interpreting the data. The reported figures for annual severe injuries between December 2015 and June 2017 are directly comparable as the data quality and number of reporting trauma centres were consistent for that period.

The Benchmarking Report will continue to monitor severe injuries in future Benchmarking reports, as further data from the ATR is provided.

Comparative Performance – Road fatalities in the past 12 Months



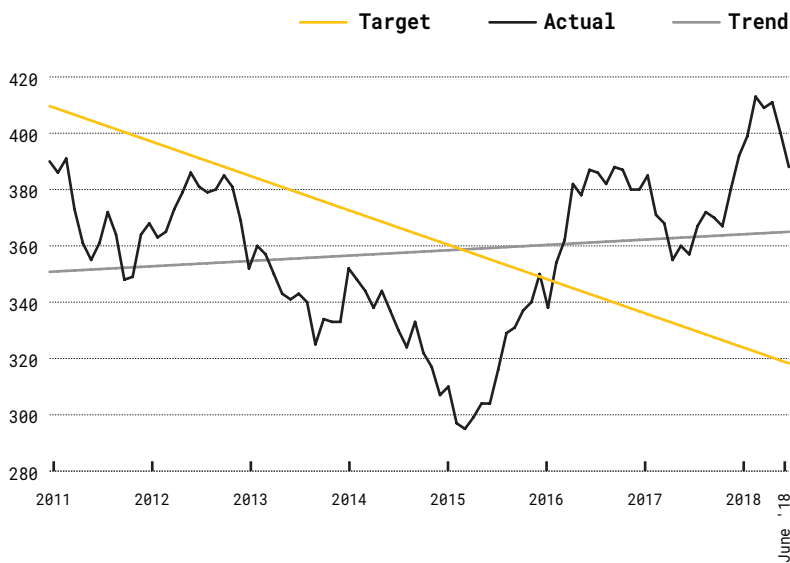
There has been a 0.1 per cent decrease in the national road toll in the 12 months ending June 2018, compared with 2016-17.

Section Two

Analysis: States and Territories

New South Wales fatalities per annum

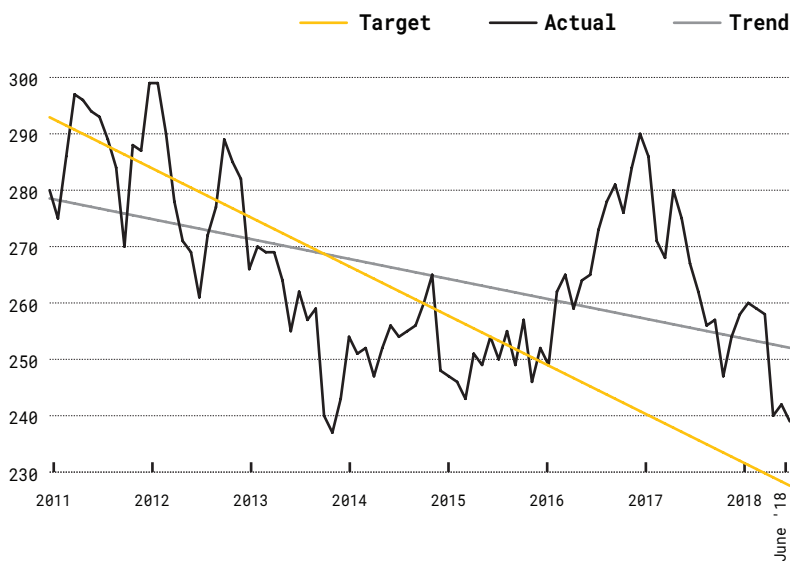
Red



- 388 road deaths occurred on New South Wales roads in the 12 months ending June 2018, compared to 357 in 2016-17.
- This is an increase of 8.7 per cent.

Victoria fatalities per annum

Red

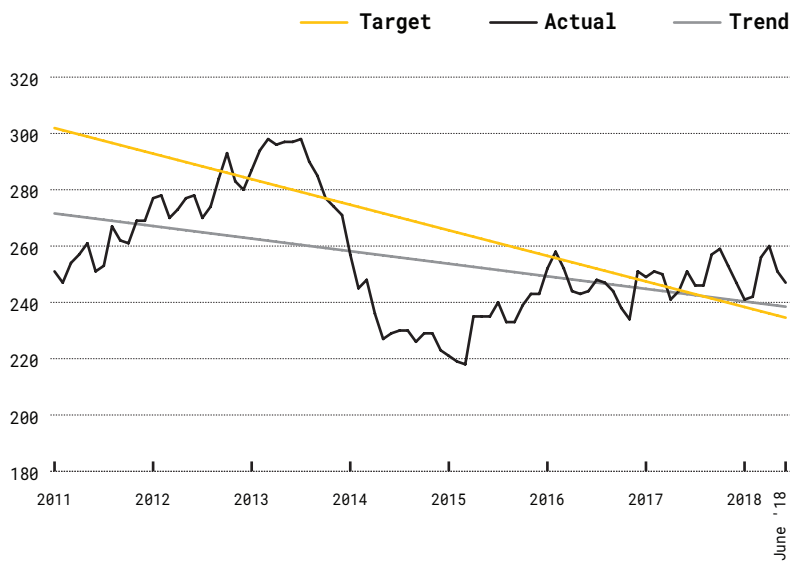


- In the past 12 months, Victoria recorded 239 deaths, compared to 267 in 2016-17.
- This is a 10.5 per cent decrease on a year earlier.

Section Two

Queensland fatalities per annum

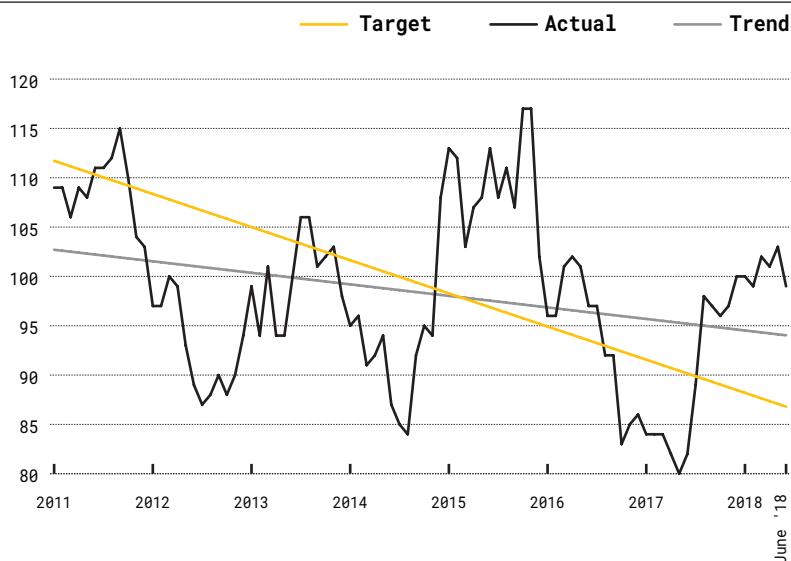
Red



- In the past 12 months, there were 247 deaths on Queensland roads, compared to 251 deaths in 2016-17.
- This is a 1.6 per cent decrease.

South Australia fatalities per annum

Red



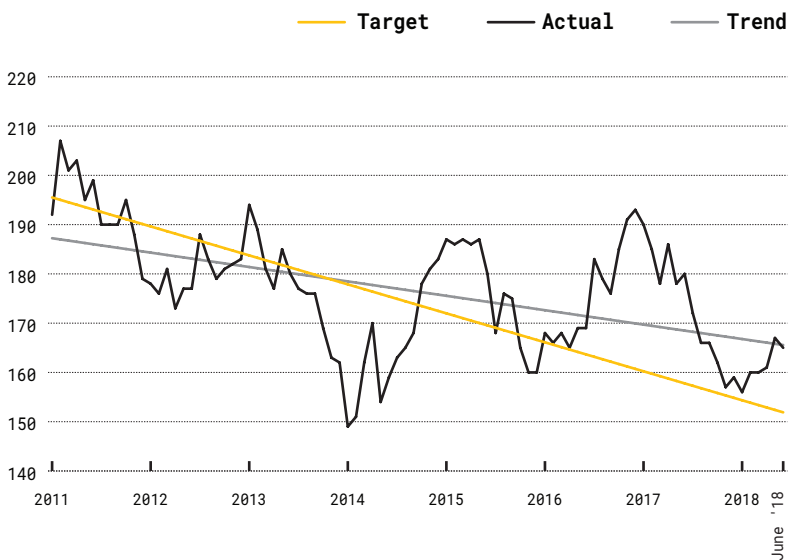
- In the past 12 months, 99 deaths occurred on South Australian roads, compared to 82 deaths in the corresponding period in 2016-17.
- This is an increase of 20.7 per cent on the previous year.

Section Two

Analysis: States and Territories

Western Australia fatalities per annum

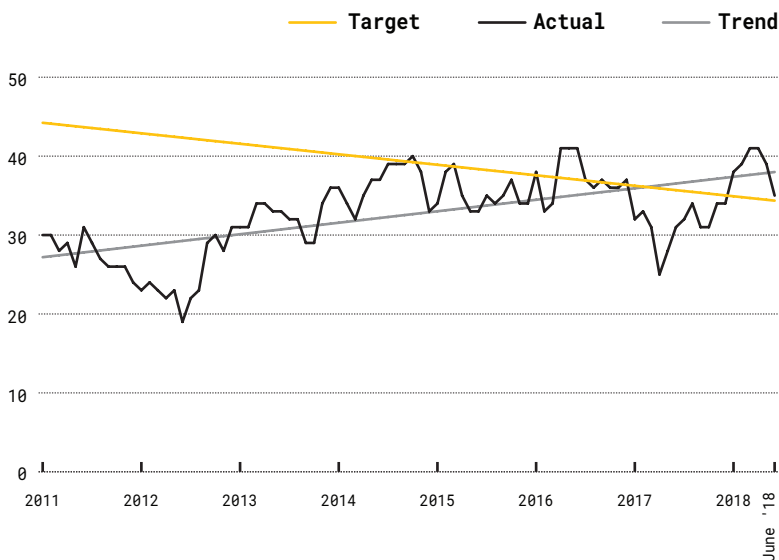
Red



- In the past 12 months, 165 people were killed on Western Australian roads, compared to 180 deaths in 2016-17.
- This is a decrease of 8.3 per cent on the previous year.

Tasmania fatalities per annum

Red

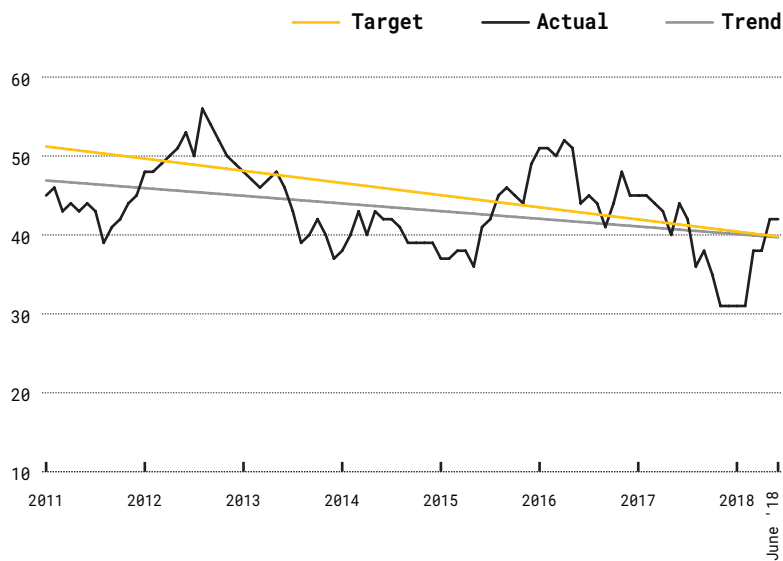


- In the past 12 months, 35 people died on Tasmanian roads, compared to 31 deaths in 2016-17.
- This is a 12.9 per cent increase on the previous year.

Section Two

Northern Territory fatalities per annum

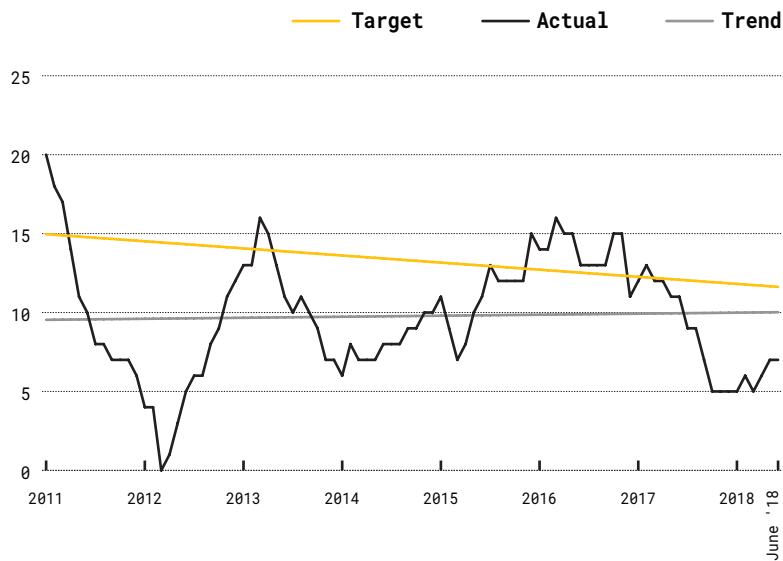
Red



- In the past 12 months, 42 deaths occurred on Northern Territory roads, compared to 44 deaths in 2016-17.
- This is a decrease of 4.5 per cent compared to a year earlier.

Australian Capital Territory fatalities per annum

Green



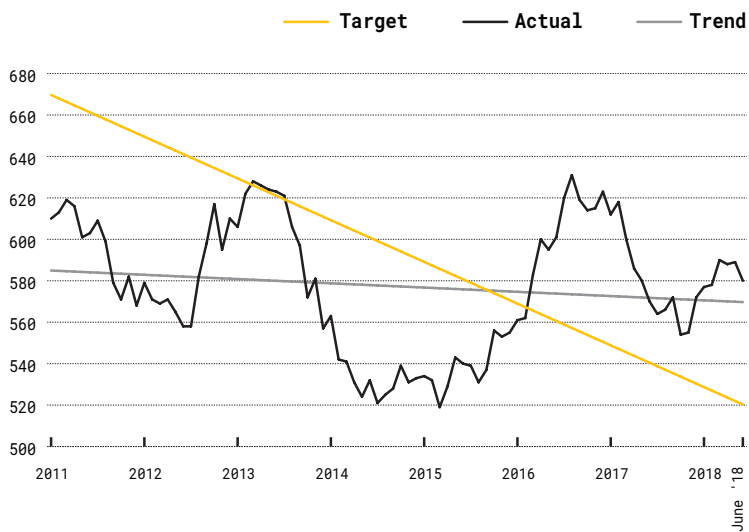
- The ACT recorded 7 deaths in the past 12 months, compared to 11 deaths in 2016-17.
- This is a 36.4 per cent decrease compared to a year earlier.

Section Three

Analysis: Road User Groups

Drivers fatalities per annum

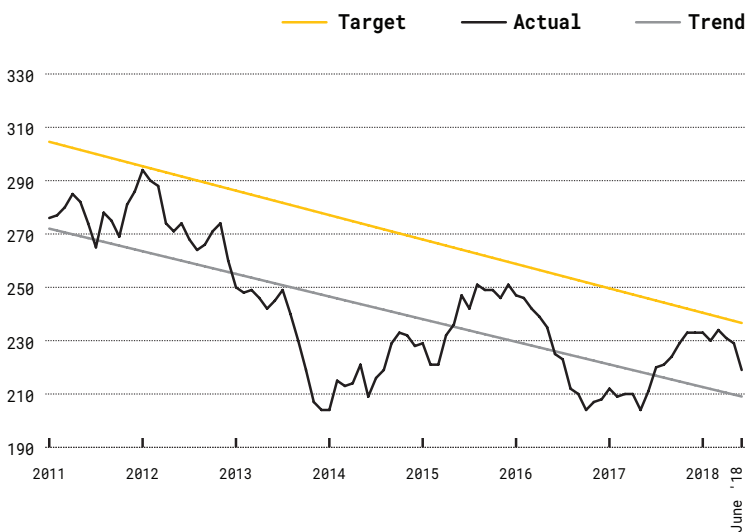
Red



- In the past 12 months, 580 driver deaths occurred on Australian roads, compared to 570 deaths in 2016-17.
- This is an increase of 1.8 per cent compared to the previous year.

Passengers fatalities per annum

Green

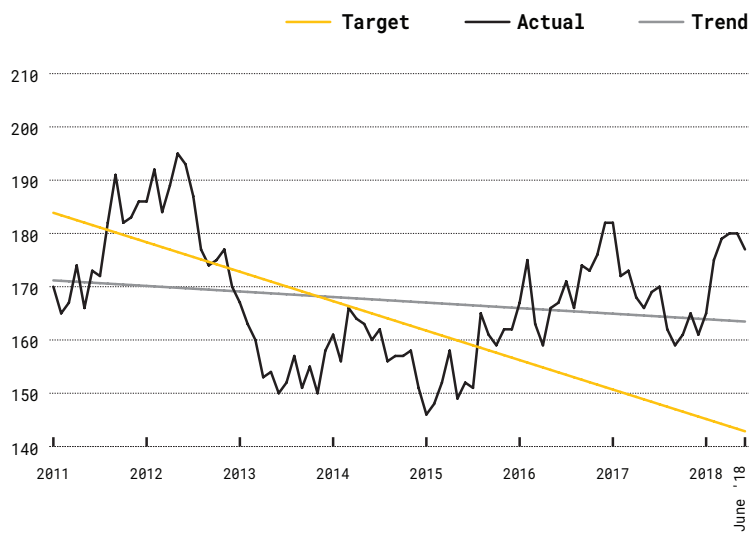


- In the past 12 months, 219 deaths on Australian roads have been passengers, compared with 211 deaths in 2016-17.
- This is an increase of 3.8 per cent compared to the previous year.

Section Three

Pedestrians fatalities per annum

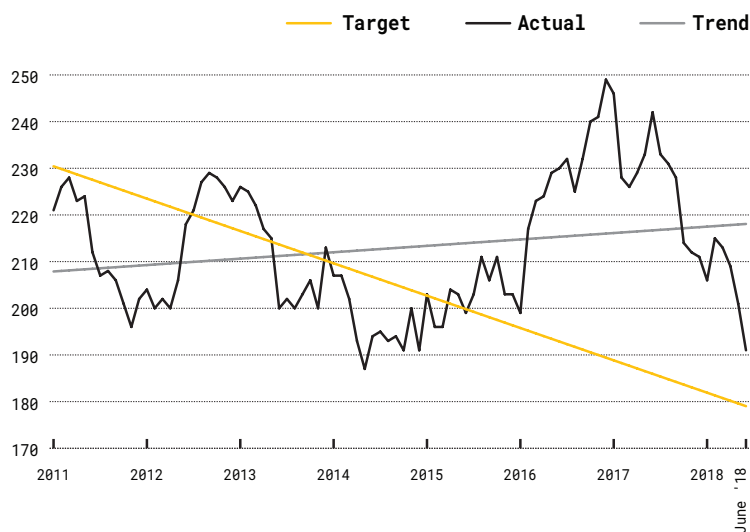
Red



- There have been 177 pedestrian deaths on Australian roads over the 12 months, compared to 169 deaths in 2016-17.
- This represents an increase of 4.7 per cent.

Motorcyclists fatalities per annum

Red



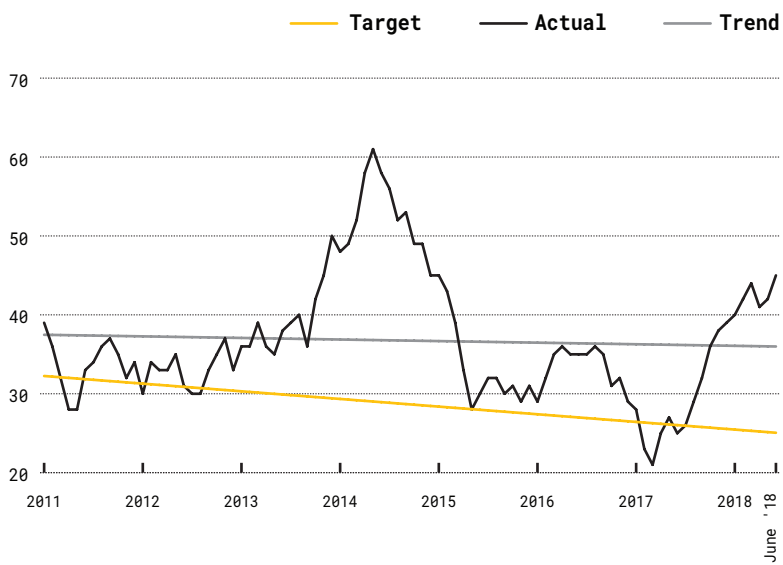
- There have been 191 motorcyclist deaths on Australian roads over the past 12 months, compared to 242 in the corresponding period in 2016-17.
- This is a decrease of 21.1 per cent on a year earlier.

Section Three

Analysis: Road User Groups

Cyclists fatalities per annum

Red

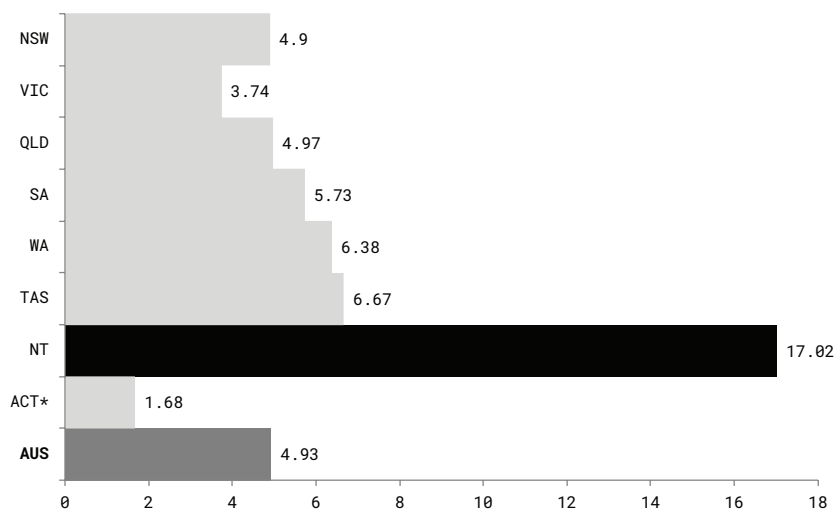


- 45 cyclists have died on Australian roads over the past 12 months, compared to 25 deaths recorded over the same period in 2016-17.
- This is an increase of 80 per cent compared to the previous year.

Section Four

Analysis: Road Deaths by Population

Annual Road Deaths per 100,000 population



The National Road Safety Strategy does not include a target for the fatality rate based on population, but it is still a useful indicator to determine priority areas. The data show that the most populous states of New South Wales and Victoria have fewer road deaths in proportion to their population than the other jurisdictions (with the exception of the ACT), while more attention is needed to reduce deaths in the Northern Territory, Tasmania, Western Australia and South Australia.

Analysis: Potential Lives Saved

Jurisdiction	Current number of fatalities	Current fatality rate per 100,000 population	Number of fatalities at 3.74 per 100,000 population	Potential lives saved
NSW	388	4.90	296	92
VIC	239	3.74	239	0
QLD	247	4.97	186	61
SA	99	5.73	65	34
WA	165	6.38	97	68
TAS	35	6.67	20	15
NT	42	17.02	9	33
ACT*	7	1.68	7	0
AUS	1222	4.93	918	304

If the other jurisdictions were able to achieve the Victorian fatality rate of 3.74 per 100,000 population, 304 lives could be saved nationally: 92 in New South Wales, 68 in Western Australia, 61 in Queensland and 34 in South Australia.

* Jurisdictions with a rate currently lower than 3.74 would not be anticipated to increase the number of fatalities.

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