



# ROAD MATTERS

## THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

PROVIDING COMMUNITY EDUCATION THAT CREATES RESPONSIBLE ROAD USERS AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.



### THIS MONTH: Heavy Vehicle Safety

Over the month of June, we looked into the topic of Heavy Vehicle Safety and how we can better share the roads with larger vehicles.

Heavy vehicles are an essential part of our freight and logistics network, with their drivers covering long distances and sharing the road with all kinds of users every day.

Over the last decade, an average of 385 lives have been lost each year in crashes involving trucks or buses (equivalent to almost one-third of the 1,200 lives lost annually on Australian roads). In such fatality crashes involving a heavy and light vehicle, the light vehicle driver is found to be at fault more than 85% of the time.

Other crash data has accentuated trends that show that deaths involving heavy rigid trucks and articulated trucks peaked in 2022 and 2023 respectively. Bus-related fatalities have stayed mostly steady but have started to increase since 2021.

Looking at the statistics it becomes increasingly apparent that no matter what you drive or how you use the roads, we each have a role to play in ensuring our own safety and the safety of others. This can look like maintaining a safe following distance, being aware of a heavy vehicles blind spots and overtaking safely and appropriately.

### New Speed Cameras for Pacific Highway

From the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2025, two new fixed speed cameras will be operating on the Pacific Highway between Cowan and the Hawkesbury River in NSW in an effort to reduce collisions in the area.

For the first 30 days, those caught speeding up to 30km/h over the speed limit by either of the cameras will only be issued a warning. Anyone exceeding the limit by more than 30km/h or any caught after the initial 30 days will face penalties.

Between 2019 and 2023, 48 people were seriously injured and one person was killed in one of the 70 collisions recorded on that strip of highway alone during those four years.

A 2023 review of the NSW Automated Enforcement Camera Programs found that casualty crashes at the sites of fixed speed cameras in NSW were reduced by 28% compared to the five year period prior to their installation.

Fixed speed cameras are unmanned and operate from a permanent location 24/7.



### WHAT'S ON NEXT MONTH?

Did you know that over 90% of road collisions are due to human factors and can be avoided?

In July, we will be covering the Fatal Five Factors that contribute to deadly road crashes. We will be discussing fatigue, speed, driving under the influence, seat belts and helmets, and distraction.

Check out our socials for tips to reduce these risks, and please feel free to shoot us a message or comment on any of our social media posts, about the ways you overcome these factors.



### MONTHLY ROAD FACT

DID YOU KNOW?

Speed cameras and other safety cameras, such as red light and seatbelt cameras, have become a fixture of Australian roads. There is plenty of debate over their effectiveness in not only reducing rates of speeding but also decreasing rates of road trauma. Currently, there are several different types of cameras in operation across the country, including fixed and mobile types, but the first use of them was in Victoria.


What year did Victoria first use a speed camera?

- A) 1978
- B) 1980
- C) 1985
- D) 1987


ANSWER : C

#### TRAFFIC OFFENDER INTERVENTION PROGRAM

ONE-DAY \$185 BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE PROGRAM




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#### DRIVE IT HOME

WHS PROGRAM FOR OCCUPATIONAL DRIVERS



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#### SCRATCHED WINDSCREEN? TRY BUFFING IT OUT INSTEAD OF REPLACING IT

Most of us have experienced the sun hitting our windshield in a certain way and revealing enough small scratches to make it difficult to see the road. It's a common belief that using your wipers while your windshield is dry can cause these small scratches, but in reality, it's more likely that they result from small pieces of debris that get trapped there, but would otherwise be washed away on a wet surface. Some see these scratches as just a part of driving, but they, like anything else that impairs your vision on the road, are dangerous. However, you don't have to pay the full cost to have your windshield replaced and can instead have it buffed to remove the scratches. **To help prevent such scratches, simply wipe your windshield wipers after dry windy periods and only activate them when wet.**

### ROAD TIP OF THE MONTH

JULY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

July: Five Fatal Factors

#### KEY DATES • EVENTS TO REMEMBER

1st

Dry July

6th

NAIDOC Week

15th

World Youth Skills Day

20th

National Farm Safe Week

27th

DonateLife Week

30th

International Day of Friendship

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