

Mornington Peninsula Towards Zero
2020-2025 Road Safety Strategy

our Road Safety Strategy | 2020-25



**MORNINGTON
PENINSULA**
Shire

No person should be killed or seriously injured on Australia's roads. We should not regard death and serious injury as an inevitable cost of road travel.

Australian National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020

Mornington Peninsula Towards Zero 2020-2025 road safety strategy recognises that human life and health are paramount - everyone has the right to return home safely from every journey. Mornington Peninsula Shire is committed to the Towards Zero

vision of zero deaths and serious injuries on the Peninsula road network. The strategy provides a strategic approach to reducing road trauma on the Mornington Peninsula during 2020 to 2025 on the course to Zero by 2050.

Mayor's Statement

The Mornington Peninsula has unacceptably high levels of road trauma. In the past decade alone, 75 people were killed and over 1500 seriously injured on roads within the Shire. Among Victoria's 79 municipalities, we experienced the highest number of deaths in 2010 and again in 2019.

The devastating impacts of road trauma on our community are not just felt when someone is lost. Serious injuries are the 'hidden' road toll, with ongoing pain, suffering and impairment upending the lives of those impacted, as well as the lives of their families.

We believe as a local government we have an important role to play in the fight to reduce road trauma. One of our fundamental duties as a council is to look after the wellbeing of our community. Saving lives and preventing serious injury on our roads is central to that mission.

For more than a decade, the Shire has sought to be a courageous road safety leader, not only among municipalities, but also in relationships with state agencies and our local community. In April 2016 we became a Towards Zero municipality and committed to the goal of zero road deaths and serious injuries on roads within the Shire. I am therefore delighted to be presenting this road safety strategy, which reflects our determination as a council to tackle this appalling toll on human lives.

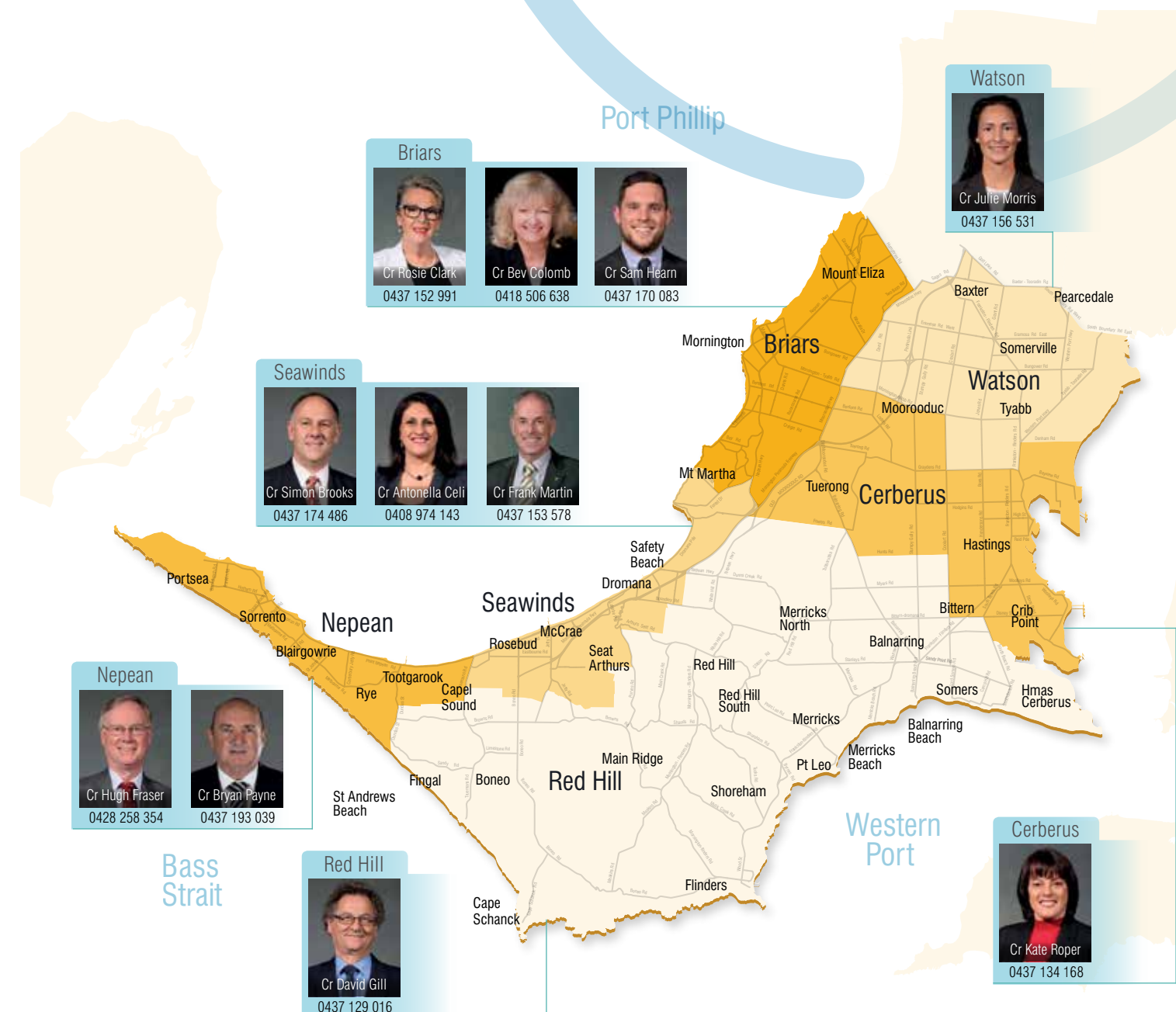
This strategy has been developed with extensive community engagement and leading road safety expertise. It acknowledges road safety is a shared responsibility that requires the dedication of everyone in the community. We must strive to be safe road users and drive safe vehicles. We must also work to implement road safety solutions that provide forgiving environments, allowing for human error and eliminate the risk of death or serious injury when a crash occurs.

So, please, I urge you to work with us on this task and do what you can to reduce road trauma on the Mornington Peninsula. Zero is the only acceptable number of deaths and serious injuries on our roads. Together, zero is possible.

Cr Sam Hearn
Mayor

This Strategy was adopted by Council on 8 September 2020

Mornington Peninsula Shire acknowledges and pays respect to the elders, families and ancestors of the Bunurong/Boon Wurrung people, who have been the custodians of this land for many thousands of years. We acknowledge that the land on which we meet is the place of age-old ceremonies, celebrations, initiation and renewal; and that the Bunurong/Boon Wurrung peoples' living culture continues to have a unique role in the life of this region.





Throughout the course of the consultation, over 200 people were engaged face-to-face and 268 online survey responses were received.

Our Road Safety Strategy

Mornington Peninsula Towards Zero 2020-2025 provides a framework for Mornington Peninsula Shire's policy and actions aimed at reducing road trauma in line with our Towards Zero vision for zero road deaths and serious injuries by 2050.

Our vision

Our ultimate vision is for all journeys within the Mornington Peninsula to be safe and feel safe for all modes of transport, including pedestrians and cyclists.

What is Towards Zero?

Towards Zero is Victoria's current road safety strategy and action plan (2016-2020) which adopts the world's best practice road safety philosophy – the Safe System approach – and aims to eliminate road trauma.

Policy context

Mornington Peninsula Towards Zero 2020-2025 aligns with the principles of the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 and Victoria's Towards Zero 2016-2020, as well as the upcoming new Victorian road safety strategy.

Community engagement

The next five years marks a critical stage for improvements in road safety within the Mornington Peninsula. We will continue to embed road safety into everything we do, drive down road trauma and continuously engage with our community on the journey to Zero.

As part of developing the road safety strategy, extensive community consultation was undertaken to gain the community's views on road safety and how safety could be improved.

(bottom left) Rosebud drop-in session
(below) Red Hill Cellar & Pantry pop-up session



What you told us

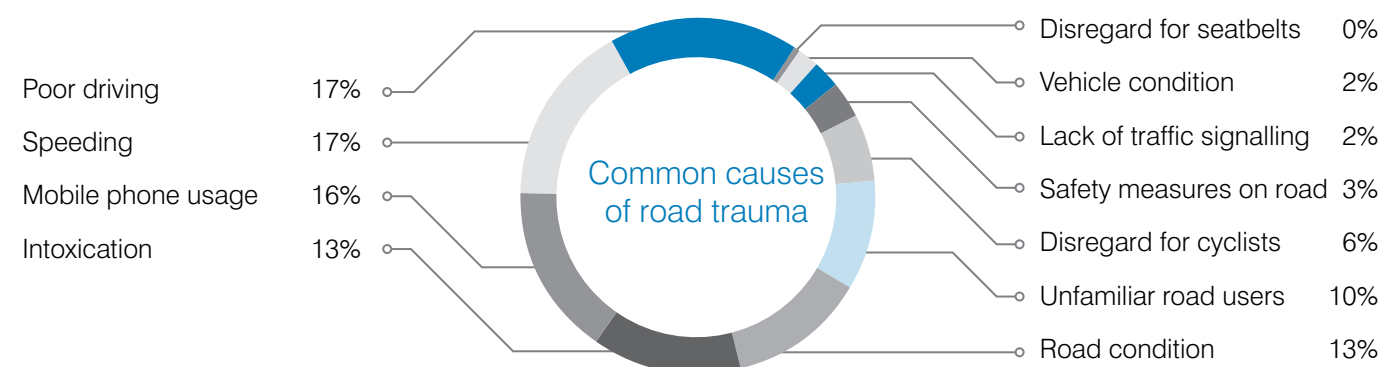
It is encouraging that over half of respondents (54%) were aware that the Mornington Peninsula Shire had adopted the 'Towards Zero' vision and became a Towards Zero municipality in 2016.

However, only 15% believed that the Mornington Peninsula has become safer for road used since

becoming a Towards Zero municipality. This shows the community's desire for a safer road network.

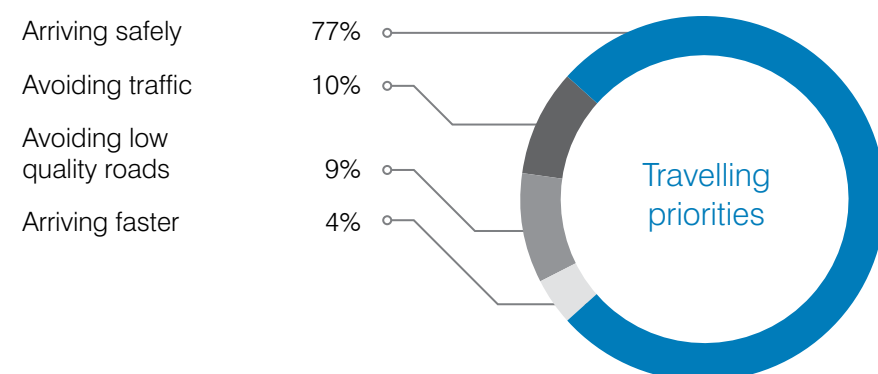
The engagement results showed there is a general consensus that there is a significant amount of road trauma within the Mornington Peninsula with 76% (204) of respondents rating the road trauma as at least 'considerable'.

Survey responses for the most common causes of trauma on our roads



Road user priorities when travelling

Road users have various priorities when travelling. The majority (77%) of survey respondents consider 'arriving safely' as their highest priority.



Survey responses for support for road safety treatments and initiatives

There are various road safety treatments and initiatives that can be implemented to increase road safety. Survey participants ranked the top three road safety treatments and road safety initiatives they are supportive of.



Where we're going

Road trauma on the Mornington Peninsula

Vision Zero

In April 2016, Council unanimously resolved that the Shire become Victoria's first Towards Zero municipality. This initiative aligns the Shire with international, Australian and Victorian road safety strategies and Vision Zero objective by recognising the value of human life and health with a clear position that no one should die or be seriously injured while travelling.

Mornington Peninsula Towards Zero 2020-2025

Road safety is a complex issue that affects everyone. Reducing road trauma is a shared responsibility – the community, road users, Mornington Peninsula Shire and all other stakeholders all have a role to play in making our road network safer and working together for us to move Towards Zero.

Mornington Peninsula Towards Zero 2020-2025 is a five year plan on the broader journey to zero deaths and serious injuries by 2050. The strategy has been developed based on community input, extensive data analysis to identify the highest crash risks, and adoption of the best practice Safe System philosophy to address road trauma.

Both Shire managed and state managed roads have been considered in the strategy. While the Shire has control over Shire managed roads, reducing road trauma on state-managed arterial roads will require advocacy and collaboration with Department of Transport and Road Safety Victoria.

Image right: The Safe System approach to road safety (source: Victoria's Towards Zero road safety strategy and action plan 2016-2020)

Aspirations

All journeys being safe and feeling safe for all modes of transport by 2050 will require a transformation of the road network over the next 30 years. Appropriate speed limits will need to be matched with infrastructure, such that the principles of the Safe System are achieved throughout the Shire. This will significantly reduce the risk of collisions and will ensure that the road network is forgiving so that any crashes that do occur do not result in death or serious injury.

Achieving this outcome will make the Peninsula safer, more enjoyable and provide a high level of liveability for the community and visitors without the fear of road trauma, whether it be as a driver or passenger, a pedestrian, a cyclist or a motorcyclist. The next five years is an opportunity to make significant progress on this journey.



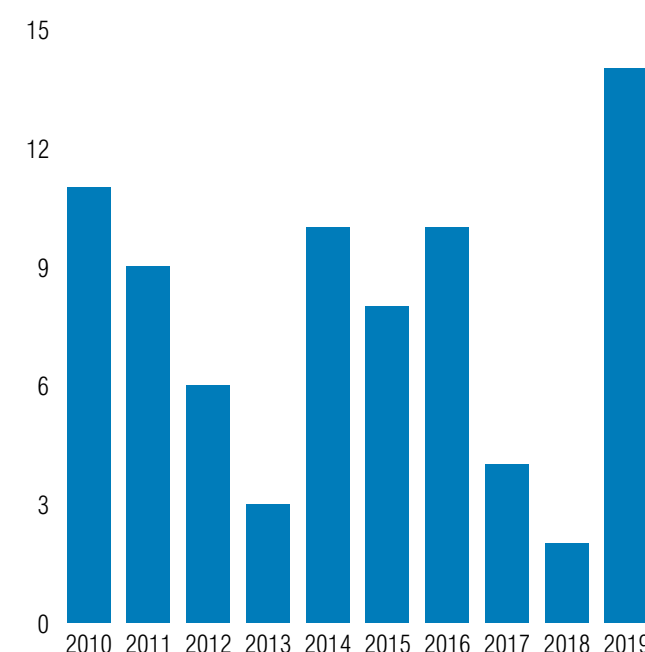
Road trauma statistics

Tragically, 368 people have been killed on roads within the Mornington Peninsula since the beginning of modern records in 1988. Over the past 30 years, the number of fatalities and serious injury crashes each year within the Peninsula has seen a significant downward trend.

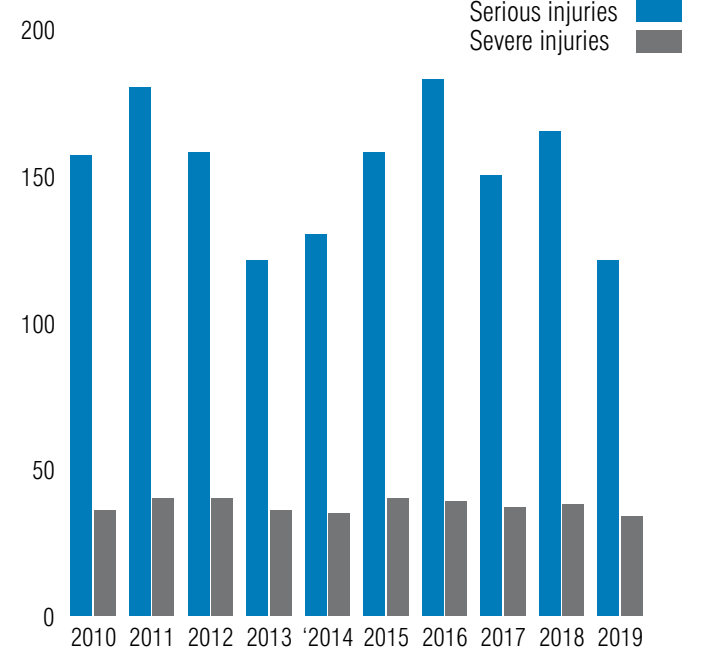
However, the reduction in road fatalities has plateaued over the past decade. To overcome the plateau, a concerted effort is required by all road safety stakeholders to achieve Zero by 2050. Mornington Peninsula Towards Zero 2020-2025 provides the strategic direction and actions necessary to drive a step-change in road trauma reduction on the Peninsula through the implementation of Safe System principles.

- Over the past five years, there were 36 fatalities and 777 people seriously injured, including 169 people with severe injuries.
- Annual averages for the past 5 years: 7.2 deaths, 186 people seriously injured, including 34 people with severe injuries
- From 2014 to 2019, 59% who lost their lives, and 77% of those who suffered serious injuries within the Mornington Peninsula were Peninsula residents.
- 40% of people killed and seriously injured were at no fault of their own

Fatalities per year



Serious and severe injuries per year

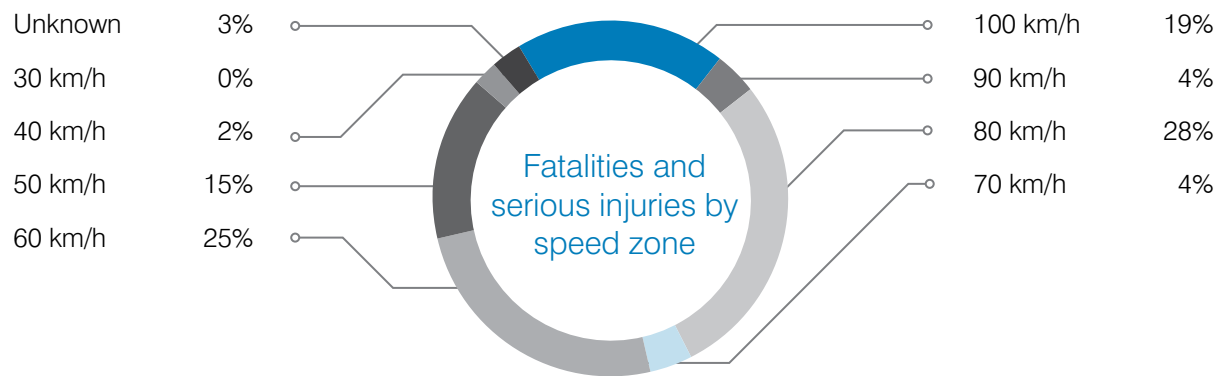


Data analysis

To provide a comprehensive understanding of Mornington Peninsula road safety issues, a thorough analysis of road trauma statistics was undertaken for the latest available five years of data. The data analysis considers fatalities and serious injuries.

Fatalities and serious injuries by speed zone

Both higher and lower speed limit roads experience a significant amount of road trauma.



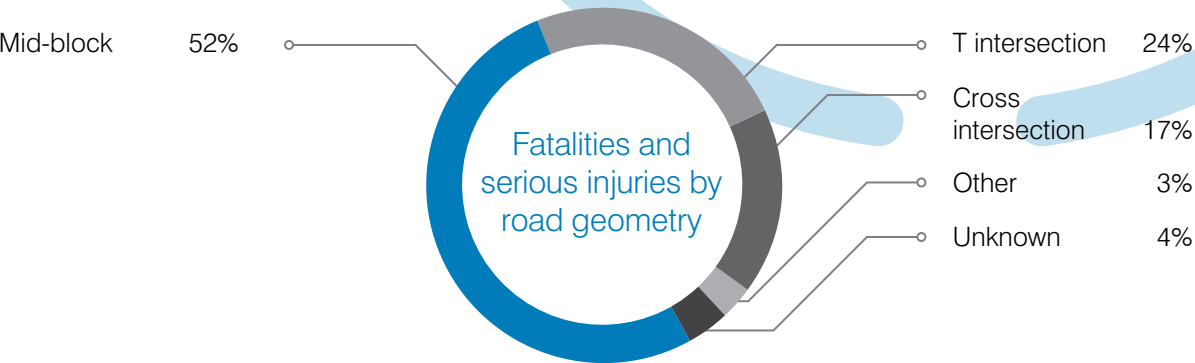
Fatalities and serious injuries by road management

Not all roads within the Mornington Peninsula are managed by Mornington Peninsula Shire. The arterial road network is managed by the Victorian Department of Transport. More than half of fatalities and serious injuries within the Shire are on state managed roads. This demonstrates that road safety requires a multi-agency approach.



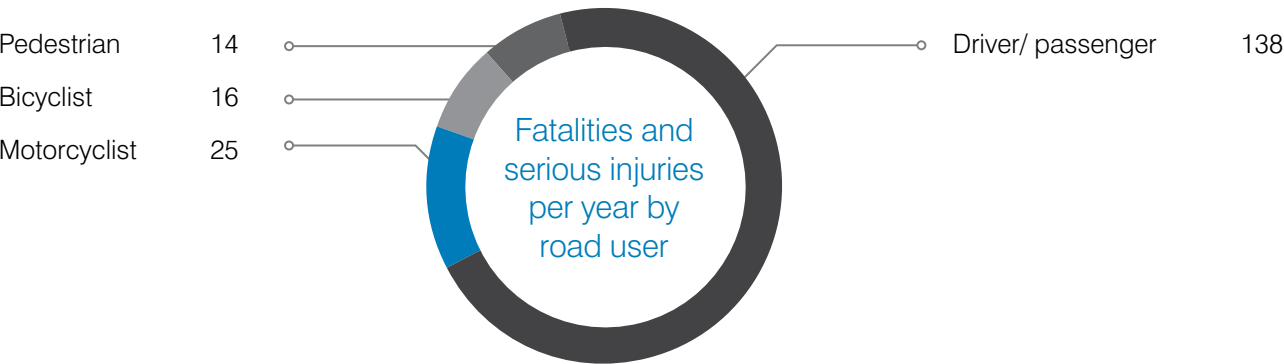
Fatalities and serious injuries by road geometry

There is close to an even proportion of fatal and serious injury crashes that occur at intersections and at mid-block locations.



Road users

While vehicle occupants represent the majority of fatalities and serious injuries, there is also a significant amount of road trauma involving other road users.



Drivers and passengers

Of the vehicle occupants killed or seriously injured each year, around 10% are inexperienced drivers (aged 18-20) and 21% are aged 70+.

Motorcyclists

Just over half (56%) of motorcyclist trauma involves persons aged between 30 and 59 years old, while an additional 23% are aged 18-25 years.

Pedestrians

Around a third (35%) of pedestrians killed or seriously injured are 70 years old or more.

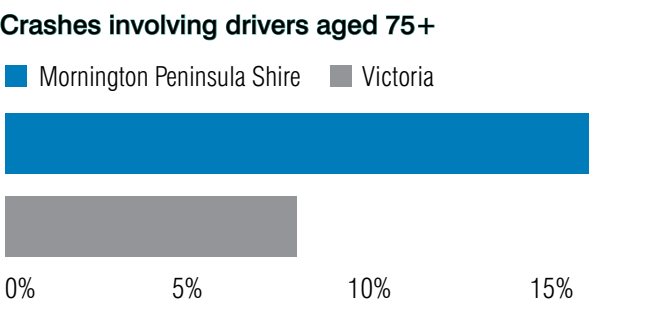
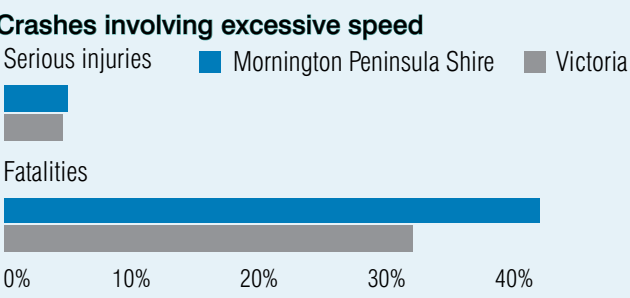
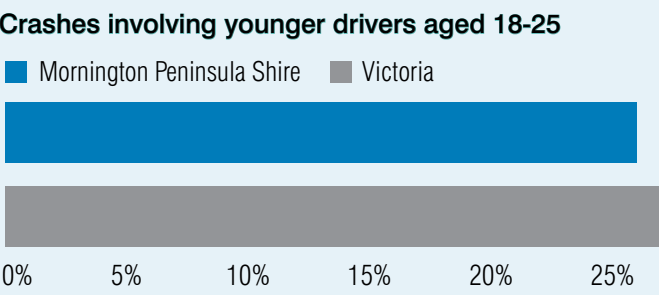
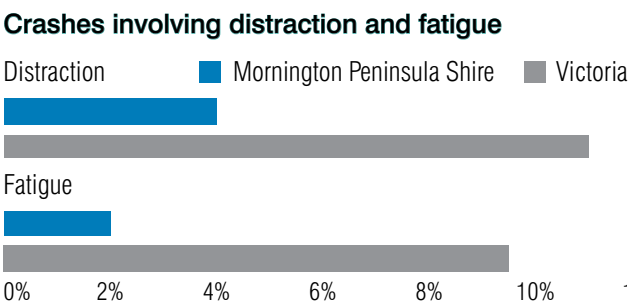
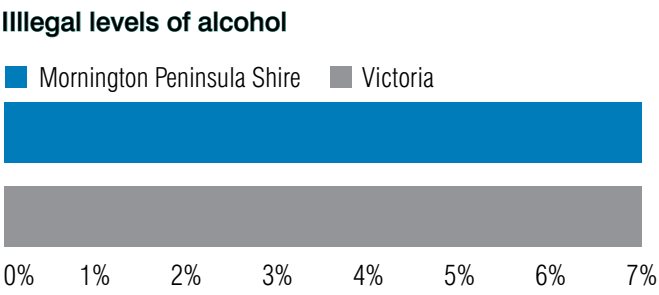
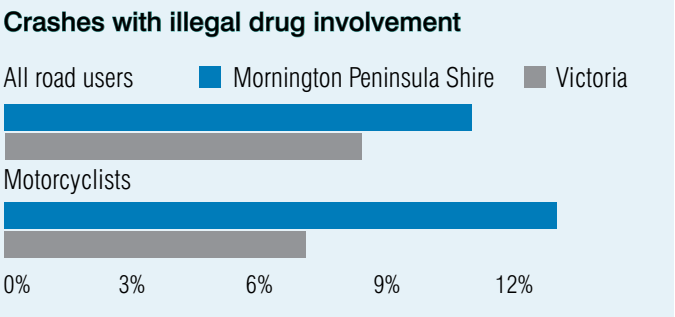
Cyclists

Most cyclist trauma is associated with side impact and side swipe by vehicles (61%). Half the fatally and seriously injured cyclists are aged between 50 and 69 years.

Data analysis

Safe System alignment

How do we compare?



Addressing road trauma

Mornington Peninsula Towards Zero 2020-2025 takes a holistic approach to the elimination of road safety risks with actions developed across the four pillars of a Safe System.

Over the next five years, road safety actions will be prioritised based on reducing the highest crash risks in line with the objectives, goals and recommendations of the Mornington Peninsula Towards Zero 2020-2025 road safety strategy to drive reductions in road trauma over this period and in the long term.

Other Shire strategies such as our Ridesafe cycling strategy will also be important in informing necessary safety improvements.

In addition, Safe System principles will be applied to new transport projects so that systemic risk is not built into the transport network

Safer Roads and Safer Speeds

Matching speed limits with infrastructure in line with Safe System principles is the cornerstone of this strategy. Safer Roads and Safer Speeds have the greatest potential for large and lasting reductions in road trauma risk by transforming the road network to be a Safe System. Initially, safe infrastructure investment will be targeted at those projects predicted to yield the maximum trauma reductions in the short term.

The data analysis identified six main systemic crash types that account for around 90% of all deaths and serious injuries within the Mornington Peninsula (refer to pages 14 and 15). Addressing the six main crash types successfully will make a strategically important contribution to preventing severe trauma over coming years. It will also set the Shire on a trajectory for near-zero deaths and serious injuries by 2050 by creating a safe and forgiving road environment that reduces the likelihood of crashes and protects people when they do.

Road safety in action

Each year Mornington Peninsula Shire receives federal Roads to Recovery funding to repair and upgrade our roads. A recent Roads to Recovery project involved the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Bentons Road, Loders Road and Derril Road in Moorooduc. Roundabouts are effective in reducing vehicle conflicts and can reduce fatal and serious injury crashes by 85%.



Addressing road trauma

These six main crash types account for approximately 90% of all deaths and serious injuries within the Mornington Peninsula.

Vehicles

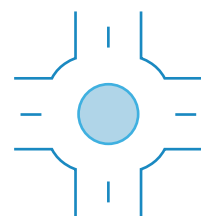
Key vehicle crash types

Lane departure crashes

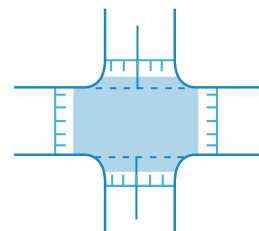
10 deaths in 5 years,
59 combined fatalities and serious injuries per year



Safe System road safety treatments to address key vehicle crash types:



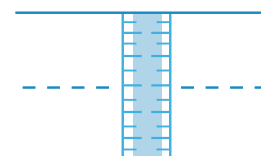
Roundabouts



Raised Intersections

Intersection crashes

13 deaths in 5 years,
55 combined fatalities and serious injuries per year



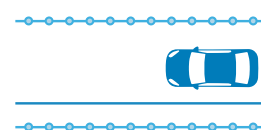
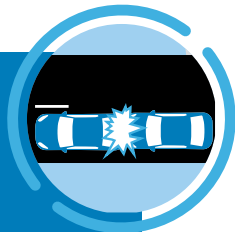
Traffic Calming



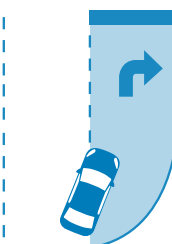
Appropriate Speed Limits

Rear-end crashes

1 death in 5 years,
27 combined fatalities and serious injuries per year



Crash Barriers
(Guardrail or Wire Rope Safety Barrier)



Turning Lanes

Vulnerable road users

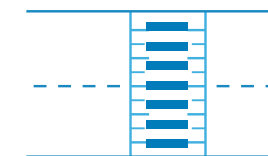
Key vulnerable road user crash types

Motorcycle crashes

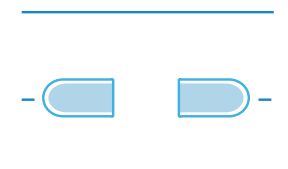
6 deaths in 5 years,
25 combined fatalities and serious injuries per year



Safe System road safety treatments to address key vulnerable road user crash types:



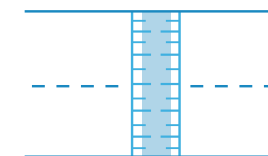
Pedestrian Crossings



Pedestrian
Refuge Islands

Pedestrian crashes

3 deaths in 5 years,
14 combined fatalities and serious injuries per year



Traffic Calming



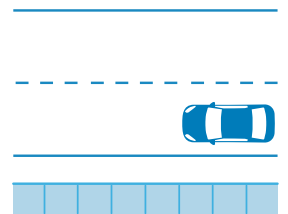
Cycling Lanes

Cyclist crashes

3 deaths in 5 years,
16 combined fatalities and serious injuries per year



Appropriate
Speed Limits



Footpaths

Supporting measures

In accordance with the principles of the Safe System approach, supporting measures are essential to maximise the effectiveness of Safer Roads and Safer Speeds treatments. These supporting measures are also required to assist in managing risk for high-risk groups while the road network is made progressively safer over the next 30 years.

Supporting infrastructure

Lower cost interim measures including more comprehensive and consistent application of signage, linemarking and intersection lighting should be applied to all high risk locations within the Shire. While these measures won't provide a Safe System, they will provide a minimum level of road safety in the short to medium term and will be required in many environments to support emerging high level vehicle driver assistance systems and future self-driving vehicles in the longer term.

Safer Road Users

Measures directed at road user behaviour can be effective but require an on-going commitment to their implementation.

Road users will be encouraged and supported to comply with key rules such as driving within speed limits, driving

unimpaired, and being sufficiently trained and competent. Key aspects of this include continued Shire support of a range of evidence based road safety education programs targeting high risk groups, ongoing TAC campaigns, and Police enforcement.

Safer Vehicles

In the coming decade, vehicle safety technology will contribute to overall reductions in deaths and serious injuries. However, programs and actions to accelerate the take-up of proven vehicle safety features will continue to be needed over coming years.

Mornington Peninsula Shire has an opportunity to demonstrate Safer Vehicle leadership to local industries, businesses and the general community by continuing to purchase only affordable, five-star fleet vehicles and municipal transport services, and support use of these vehicles in accordance with best-practice safe use policies.

The Shire will also encourage its contractors and other motorists to purchase or travel in five-star safety rated vehicles, and motorcyclists to ride motorcycles fitted with the latest safety features such as anti-lock braking systems.

Implementation

With 1364km of sealed and 336 km of unsealed Shire managed roads, and 289km of state managed roads within the Mornington Peninsula, addressing road trauma is challenging. It will require ongoing prioritisation of the Shire's capital works program, appropriate allocation of federal Roads to Recovery funding, applications for federal Black Spot funding and TAC grants, as well as proactively pursuing advocacy and other opportunities.

Road safety leadership

Reductions in road trauma are often limited without strong leadership. Mornington Peninsula Shire understands this fundamental role of genuine leadership in road safety.

Taking on the responsibility of being a Towards Zero municipality involves commitment to both taking positive action at Council, Executive, officer and community levels, as well as engaging in active advocacy among the state road safety stakeholders.

The Shire will continue to lead in driving and supporting innovation and ambition aimed at eradicating death and serious injury on the Peninsula.

Towards Zero leadership team

To help implement this ambitious road safety strategy, the Shire proposes the formation of a 'Towards Zero Leadership Team' with our key road safety partners. This team aims to be agile, enabled, autonomous, innovative, responsible and strategic. The team will develop new and streamlined procedures to allow high-impact, strategically significant trials and demonstrations to be undertaken on the roads of the Peninsula.

For their part, the road safety partners will need to make strong and lasting commitments to rejecting the status quo and implementing meaningful change. Successes and improvements from the rest of Victoria need to be transferred to the Shire and supported with targeted resources, funding and expertise.

Road safety in action

The summer holidays are a busy time on the Mornington Peninsula and research shows that young children are at high risk during this time. Mornington Peninsula Shire partners with the Little Blue Dinosaur Foundation each summer to promote the "Slow Down, Kids Around" Holiday Time campaign. This encourages drivers along the Port Phillip Bay coast in the Southern Peninsula to slow down and be aware of children, and parents to keep a watchful eye on their children. The campaign includes colourful roadside signage and media promotion.



Road safety in action

In December 2019, Mornington Peninsula Shire implemented our two year Safer Speeds trial of 80 km/h speeds limits on our 38 high risk sealed rural roads which had 90 and 100 km/h speed limits. Research indicates that the project is expected to reduce fatalities and serious injuries by 25% and 15% respectively on these roads. The trial is being comprehensively evaluated by Road Safety Victoria.





Road safety actions

Overall oversight of Mornington Peninsula Towards Zero 2020-2025 will sit with the Shire's Traffic and Transport team who will be responsible for coordinating, implementing, monitoring and reviewing this strategy, ensuring the objectives are translated into measurable actions that make our transport network safer.

There are a number of key actions that the Shire will undertake in line with the principles of the strategy:

- Develop annual road safety action plans for the next five years
- Develop measurable road safety performance indicators
- Monitor progress of road safety improvements against the road safety performance indicators
- Engage and empower the community in relation to road safety
- Advocate to state government for state-managed arterial road improvements
- Maintain and improve collaboration and relationships with key road safety stakeholders
- Prioritise road safety improvements based on highest risks and systemic crash types
- Continue investing in road safety improvements on local roads
- Continue road safety leadership and innovation
- Support people to become safer road users
- Set an example and encourage others to drive safer vehicles
- Embed road safety, Towards Zero and the Safe System approach in everything we do
- Continue investigating appropriate speed limits

Evaluation of the strategy

An important part of achieving the goals of the strategy is to evaluate the strategy against relevant performance indicators. While a reduction in road trauma is the overall goal of the strategy, the number of fatalities and serious injuries tends to vary from year to year in the short term, independent of improvements in road safety. Therefore, the strategy will be monitored against indicators that are known to improve road safety which will ultimately result in reducing road trauma.

Road Safety Indicators



Further information

Further information about road safety and the Mornington Peninsula Towards Zero 2020-2025 road safety strategy is available on the Mornington Peninsula Shire website

 mornpen.vic.gov.au/TowardsZero

Acknowledgements

Mornington Peninsula Towards Zero 2020-2025 road safety strategy is based on the Mornington Peninsula Shire road safety strategy technical report prepared by Monash University Accident Research Centre, Corben Consulting and DJ Healy Road Safety Consulting.

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