

ACRS Victorian Chapter Road Safety Election Brief 2026

Maintaining Victoria's leadership and bringing the community with us

Evidence and collective input from our forum

On 19 May 2026, the Australasian College of Road Safety (ACRS) Victorian Chapter held its Reflecting on the 2030 Targets and Reframing the Road Ahead to 2050 Forum. The forum brought together ACRS members, road safety professionals, researchers, practitioners and community representatives to reflect on progress towards the 2030 road safety targets and consider the road ahead to 2050. Drawing on expert presentations and a facilitated workshop, participants identified priorities to help inform a way forward for road safety in Victoria.

The presentations and workshop highlighted the need for strong and accountable leadership, reliable data, sustained investment, consistent Safe System implementation, independent evaluation and meaningful community participation. The priorities developed form the themes for the basis of the commitments in this brief.

Building on Victoria's road safety leadership

Victoria has a proud history of road safety leadership, including compulsory seatbelts, roadside breath testing and sustained public road safety campaigns. The encouraging decline in deaths during 2026 shows that progress is possible and provides a strong foundation for continued action.

At midnight on 3 November 2026, 229 people (year to date) had been killed on Victorian roads, 20 fewer than at the same point in 2025. One better year matters, but consistency over time is what saves lives and shows whether the system is changing. Reaching the 2030 targets will require dedicated leadership, sustained investment and coordinated action across government and the wider Victorian community.

The commitments we seek

We invite every political party to support six commitments and explain how each will be funded, delivered and publicly measured. Government does not have to do this alone. ACRS members, road safety professionals, researchers, practitioners, local government and communities are ready to contribute their knowledge and experience. These commitments are:

- **Leadership and accountability**: Publish annual progress of targets, establish clear government accountability for delivering agreed actions and achieving road safety outcomes, sustain investment and independently evaluate results.
- **Safe neighbourhoods**: Fund safe streets and speed environments particularly around children, schools, services and activity centres.
- **Safe transport choice**s: Protect people using public transport, walking and cycling through safe infrastructure and connected networks.
- **Safe behaviour and compliance**: Combine road design, safe vehicles, technology, education and effective enforcement as one system.
- **Equity data and post crash care**: Improve serious-injury data and public access to it, target investment according to evidence and need, and strengthen comprehensive support after a crash.
- **Community partnership**: Begin with what communities value and involve people early in shaping, testing and evaluating road safety goals.

The response we seek

Will your party support these six commitments, work with the road safety sector and Victorian communities, and publish annual progress against them?



What sustained progress requires

The forum identified the conditions that support lasting progress: clear outcomes, strong and accountable leadership, effective cross-government governance, evidence and reliable data, sustained investment, independent evaluation and consistent Safe System implementation. We want the next Victorian Governement to maintain this leadership and ensure that a simple question guides every major road transport decision - will this reduce the risk of someone being killed or seriously injured?

The Safe System

People make mistakes. Roads, vehicles and speed settings should be designed so mistakes are less likely and do not result in death or life-changing injury. Education and enforcement are most effective when supported by safe road design, safe vehicles and speed environments that match how a place is used.

Bringing the community with us

The need to bring the community with us was raised repeatedly and in different ways by ACRS members and other forum participants. Strong engagement begins with listening, involving people early and showing how proposed action connects with what communities' value.

We need to flip the message. It is rare for a community to ask for a particular road safety treatment or policy. Instead requests may be made to help children to travel independently, an older family member to remain mobile, for safe regional journeys, reliable freight movement or a town centre where people feel able to walk and participate. Engagement should begin with those outcomes, then explain how the road safety response helps achieve them.

We invite all parties to:

- Fund an ongoing Victorian road safety community partnership and engagement program.
- Use local evidence, lived experience and trusted voices to explain the risk, benefits and trade-offs.
- Test significant proposals and messages before implementation with the people they are intended to reach.
- Report what communities said, what changed and what happened after implementation.
- Measure understanding, trust, fairness, support and behaviour, not only campaign reach.

How progress should be measured

Annual reporting should cover deaths, serious injuries, safety performance indicators, delivery milestones, expenditure and independent evaluation. Results and investment should be reported by region, local government area and road-user group. Community reporting should show participation, understanding, trust and whether community input influenced decisions.

A shared effort

Government has a central role in setting direction, coordinating action and maintaining investment. ACRS and the wider road safety sector can support this work with independent expertise, research, practical experience, evaluation and connections with communities across Victoria.

What we ask each party to provide:

- A clear response to each of the six commitments.
- The actions to be delivered during the next term, with funding and responsible agencies identified.
- The indicators and reporting arrangements that will show whether delivery is on track.
- An explanation of how communities will be involved before significant reforms are finalised.

About this Brief

This election brief presents the collective position of the ACRS Victorian Chapter, informed by the evidence, presentations and participant discussions from our May 2026 forum.

Sources

- *ACRS Victorian Chapter forum outputs and presentations, May 2026;*
- *ACRS Policy Principles and Position Statements;*
- *Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2021 to 2030 and Road Safety Action Plan 2;*
- *TAC Lives Lost Year to Date;*
- *BITRE road trauma publications; National Road Safety Strategy 2021 to 2030.*
- *Australasian College of Road Safety (ACRS)*