

NSW Bus Industry Taskforce
Transport for NSW
Bustaskforce@transport.nsw.gov.au

28 March 2024

Dear Taskforce Chair,

The Australasian College of Road Safety (ACRS) is the region's peak membership association for road safety with a vision of eliminating death and serious injury on the road. Our members include experts from all areas of road safety including policy makers, health and transport professionals, academics, community organisations, researchers, federal, state and local government agencies, private companies and members of the public. The purpose of the College is to support our members in their efforts to eliminate serious road trauma through knowledge sharing, professional development, networking and advocacy. Our objectives include the promotion of road safety as a critical organisational objective within government, business and the community; the promotion and advocacy of policies and practices that support harm elimination; the improvement of relative safety outcomes for vulnerable demographic and user groups within the community; the promotion of post-crash policies and practices; and the promotion of a collegiate climate amongst all those with responsibilities for and working in road safety.

The College believes that we should prevent all fatal and serious injuries on our roads; the road traffic system must be made safe for all road users; system designers should aim to prevent human error and mitigate its consequences; life and health are not exchangeable for other benefits in society; and that all College policy positions must be evidence based.

The NSW Road Safety Action Plan 2026¹ is the strategic direction for reducing road trauma in NSW. The document contains NSW Government targets to reduce road trauma which apply to all road users and industries.

The Roads Minister's Foreword (Page 2) describes the plan:

The Plan is based on the proven Safe System approach to road safety, enabling safe roads, speeds, people, and vehicles, which when implemented together allow the road systems to not only keep us moving, but, more importantly, keep us safe.

The Hon. John Graham MLC, Minister for Roads

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https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/system/files/media/documents/2023/2026_road_safety_action_plan.pdf

Road safety was belatedly included in the work of the Taskforce when Transport Minister Haylen expanded the Terms of Reference². The Minister identified aspects of the safe system such as fatigue management and driver training for the Taskforce to examine.

The Bus Industry Taskforce First Safety Report made five recommendations³. These recommendations were confined almost exclusively to seat belts and/or standing passengers with only one recommendation touching on speed.

Following on from the recent NSW Government's Road Safety Forum there is an opportunity for the Taskforce to champion a whole-of-bus-industry response to the NSW Road Safety Action Plan 2026.

ACRS has identified systemic road safety issues pertaining to the bus industry such as the need for driver assistance systems including Intelligent Speed Adaptation and In-Vehicle Monitoring Systems to be mandatory; a lack of crash testing of buses; the need to update the fleet to ensure all buses have Autonomous Emergency Braking and Electronic Stability Control; the need to regularly re-assess the safety and suitability of bus routes and bus stops; placement of mandatory emergency exits and more.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with the Taskforce to provide advice and guidance to these broader road safety issues.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Michael Timms
NSW Chapter Co-Chair
ACRS



Dr Ingrid Johnston
Chief Executive Officer
ACRS

² <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/system/files/media/documents/2023/bus-taskforce-additional-terms-of-reference-06-2023.pdf>

³ <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/system/files/media/documents/2023/Bus-Industry-Taskforce-Safety-Report-31-July-2023-WCAG.pdf> Pages 8-9