

Hon Catherine King MP
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
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24 January 2025

Dear Minister King,

Re: 4th Global Ministerial Road Safety Conference

As you are aware, the [4th Global Ministerial Road Safety Conference](#), will be held on 18-20 February 2025 in Marrakech, Morocco. This important event happens only every 5 years, and includes a Ministerial Roundtable and a meeting of the Heads of Road Safety Agencies. As you would also know, with 1,300 deaths in 2024, Australia's road trauma numbers have increased for a record 4th year in a row – something not seen in decades, and making our targets increasingly unlikely to be met. We used to be a world leader in road safety, but are now falling further and further behind.

We are writing to urge you to re-consider your decision not to have any political representation at the conference, instead having Australia represented only by the Assistant Secretary from the Office of Road Safety. At the conference, countries are being asked to make commitments around how they will accelerate progress towards the 2030 targets of halving road deaths and serious injuries. If Australia is taking the current crisis in our road trauma at all seriously, we must be willing to make a commitment to this conference. That requires the authority of political representation.

We understand that the timing makes it difficult for you to attend, given there is an election imminent here. However, there is precedent for political representation at important global events, even during an election campaign. Bipartisan representation at the conference would ensure that Australia is able to make a commitment regardless of who forms Government after the election.

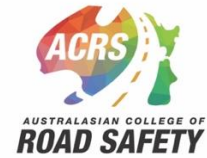
Australia must recognise the problem that road trauma is and take action to turn this crisis around. At the last United Nations meeting on road safety, Australia had an empty chair. Since then, the trauma numbers have only gotten worse. It's time to demonstrate willingness to properly engage in this issue and commit to doing better. The Global Ministerial Road Safety Conference provides an ideal opportunity to do so.

We urge you to ensure that Australia is represented at a political as well as bureaucratic level at the internationally important event. Our standing, both nationally and internationally, depends on Australia committing to international action and being appropriately represented at key forums.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Ingrid Johnston
Chief Executive Officer
Australasian College of Road Safety



Peter Frazer OAM
President
Safer Australian Roads And Highways



Carla Hoorweg
Chief Executive Officer
ANCAP Safety



Michael Bradley
Managing Director
Australian Automobile Association



Greg Smith
Acting Chief Executive Officer and Global Program Director
International Road Assessment Program (iRAP)

