

Open Letter to Australian Parliament on Road Safety

Monday 24 November 2025

Each year, 1,300 people are killed on Australian roads, and tens of thousands more are left with life-changing injuries. Road trauma far exceeds that of air, marine and rail combined. For nearly five consecutive years, these numbers have risen. We would never tolerate this level of harm in any other transport system. We should not tolerate it on our roads.

This loss is unacceptable - and it is preventable.

Australia once led the world in road safety, but we have fallen behind. Whether measured per head of population, per registered vehicle, or by distance or per kilometres travelled, road fatality rates in Australia sit above the OECD median. Several nations have achieved road trauma rates less than half of ours. They have shown what is possible when evidence guides action.

Reducing the open-road default speed limit is one such evidence-based measure. It simply adjusts the starting point for roads without posted limits, typically unsealed, narrow or winding roads with low traffic volumes. If a road is engineered to support a higher limit safely, it can still be signed accordingly. This proposal does not target major highways or dual carriageways, and it does not remove the need for individual risk assessments or safety improvements.

The question is straightforward: shouldn't the starting point for the conversation be a safe speed, rather than one that kills?

Countries with the best road safety records have answered yes, and their results speak for themselves. Lower default limits on high-risk roads do not grind nations to a halt. They save lives, prevent life-altering injuries and reduce the billions of dollars that road trauma costs Australia every year.

We, the undersigned road safety professionals, support the reduction of Australia's open-road default speed limit. It is time to act on the evidence. Lives depend on it.

	Name / Organisation (Signature)	Logo (if applicable)
1	Australasian College of Road Safety	 AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF ROAD SAFETY
2	iRAP	
3	Royal Australasian College of Surgeons	 Royal Australasian College of Surgeons  Committed to Indigenous Health RACS acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to Elders both past and present.
4	Highlands Drivesafe	
5	Safe Mobility	
6	Austroroads	
7	See.Sense (Limeforge Pty Ltd)	
8	Western Australian Centre for Road Safety Research, The University of Western Australia	 THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA  WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR ROAD SAFETY RESEARCH
9	Better Streets	
10	Centre for Automotive Safety Research	 Centre for Automotive Safety Research  THE UNIVERSITY of ADELAIDE

11	Sensys Gatso Australia Pty Ltd	
12	Safer Australian Roads and Highways	
13	Bicycle NSW	
14	Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC)	
15	Safe Systems Solutions	
16	Zero Transport Safety Advisory	
17	Apia Driving School	
18	Perth Injury and Trauma Institute	
19	Road Safety Alert Foundation	

20	Dr Ingrid Johnston	63	Margaret Hannah Stewart
21	Lesley Tipping	64	Madeleine Fletcher-Kennedy
22	Kasey Yates	65	Robert Neville Atkinson
23	Brett Williams	66	Michael Paine
24	Prof. Raphael Grzebieta	67	Sam Doecke
25	Teresa Senserrick	68	Michael Nieuwesteeg
26	Ivan Draganjac	69	Jillian Darby
27	Jeffrey Potter	70	Wendy Taylor
28	R. F. Soames Job	71	David Fulton
29	Giles Foster	72	Inam Ahmad
30	Jake Olivier	73	David McTiernan
31	Alastair Wiggins	74	Monica Yee
32	Keith Simmons	75	Maxwell Alan FitzGibbon
33	Siobhan O'Donovan	76	Amelia Thorpe, Professor, UNSW Law and Justice
34	Samantha Logan	77	Roderick Katz
35	Alex Metric	78	Kieron O'Hara
36	Alan Rushworth	79	Linda Ferguson
37	Joanne Bennett	80	Kathy Doukouris
38	Martin Elsegood	81	Hamid Mirbaha
39	Tracy Cheffins	82	William Douglas
40	Nicole Coaker	83	Dr Judy Fleiter
41	Chris Hall	84	Brett Hughes
42	Elisabeth Rubie	85	Jamie Mackenzie
43	Adam Wilmot	86	Dr Auttapone Karndacharuk
44	John Wall	87	Lisa Wundersitz
45	Maria Eugenia Keller	88	Ezekiel Malibiran
46	Rob McInerney	89	Ross Johnson
47	Chris Boron	90	Soujanya Gowda
48	Mathew McQuinn	91	Pratikshya Bidari
49	Gisele Mesnage	92	Prof. Narelle Haworth AM
50	Dr Blair Turner	93	Tegwan Atkinson
51	Jennifer Branch-Allen	94	Partha Parajuli
52	Dr Tana Tan	95	Lisa Bagnati
53	Robynann Dixon	96	Mark Gibbons
54	Paul L. Roberts	97	Hafez Alavi
55	Emeritus Prof. Barry Watson	98	Matt Allan
56	Ross Lang	99	Tim Cumming
57	Freda Crucitti	100	Brana Ravichelvan
58	Mario Mongiardini	101	Warwick Pattinson
59	Steve Barlow	102	Andrea Helen Hamilton-Vaughan
60	Enzo Dri	103	Scientia Professor Rebecca Ivers AM FAHMS FRSN
61	Laura Procter	104	Mark King
31	Alastair Wiggins	105	Matin Nabavi Niaki
32	Keith Simmons	106	Martin Small
33	Siobhan O'Donovan	107	Brianna Aris
34	Samantha Logan	108	ThillaiRajah SilvaPalan
35	Alex Metric	109	Robert Jaske
36	Alan Rushworth	110	Prof. Ashim Debnath
37	Joanne Bennett	111	Prof. (Em) Ann Williamson
38	Martin Elsegood	112	Harry Camkin
39	Tracy Cheffins	113	David Russell
40	Nicole Coaker	114	David Elston
41	Chris Hall	115	Tony Bowis
42	Elisabeth Rubie	116	Katherine Buttsworth

43	Adam Wilmot	117	Natalie Ashton
44	John Wall	118	Patrice Smith
45	Maria Eugenia Keller	119	Melanie Peterssen
46	Rob McInerney	120	Sunera Patabendige
47	Chris Boron	121	Tia Gaffney
48	Mathew McQuinn	122	Andrew Burbridge
49	Gisele Mesnage	123	Michael Timms
50	Dr Blair Turner	124	Daniel Marshall
51	Jennifer Branch-Allen	125	Suresh Babu Bodasingu
52	Dr Tana Tan	126	Chris Harrison
53	Robynann Dixon	127	Aimee Wescombe
54	Paul L. Roberts	128	Nigel Coates
55	Emeritus Prof. Barry Watson	129	Melissa Brooks
56	Ross Lang	130	Gregory J Casey
57	Freda Crucitti	131	Roland Patrick Devine
58	Mario Mongiardini	132	Claire Campbell
59	Steve Barlow	133	Ali Macleod
60	Enzo Dri	134	Marcus Cosgrove
61	Laura Procter	135	Peter Frazer
62	Dr Olivia Haller	136	Sarah Bickford
51	Jennifer Branch-Allen	137	Grace Nairn
52	Dr Tana Tan	138	Lachlan Cox
53	Robynann Dixon	139	Emeritus Prof. Michael Regan
54	Paul L. Roberts	140	Cecily Michaels
55	Emeritus Prof. Barry Watson	141	Liz Waller
56	Ross Lang	142	Professor Julie Brown
57	Freda Crucitti	143	N. F. Cooper
58	Mario Mongiardini	144	Allison McIntyre
59	Steve Barlow		
60	Enzo Dri		
61	Laura Procter		
62	Dr Olivia Haller		