



Road Safety

2026-27 Budget



Connecting Australians | Enriching Communities | Empowering Regions
Supporting improved road safety

Road Safety

- The Government is committed to improving road safety outcomes across the country, including through significant investment in improving road infrastructure, regulating first entry of road vehicles into Australia and promoting the uptake of safer vehicles.
- At this Budget we are investing more in **national road safety research** to ensure our future investment is targeted to where it can have the greatest impact.
- This work will draw on expert advice and leverage the extensive national dataset through the Australian Government's National Road Safety Data Hub to explore how and why road accidents are occurring and what more all governments can do to improve road safety outcomes.
- The Government has also extended the delivery timeframe for projects under the **Regional Level Crossing Upgrade Fund** to 30 June 2029. This will ensure all states and territories have more time to deliver priority level crossing upgrades to improve safety at regional level crossings across the country.

Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program

- Changes will be implemented to the **Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program** Guidelines for the next round, to see greater focus on road safety outcomes, provide greater clarity for applicants and make access to the funding more equitable for remote councils.
- Key changes include:
 - Giving **greater emphasis to road safety** as the primary objective of the program, while retaining the focus areas of productivity, road resilience and road sustainability; and
 - **Introducing a new co-funding tier** for Local Government Authority applicants in remote areas, who will now be eligible for funding of up to 90 per cent of total project costs.



Key statistics

- With 1,314 fatalities in 2025, the Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics (BITRE) estimates the cost to Australia was \$4.2 billion in 2025 alone. BITRE estimates the average social cost for a crash involving at least one fatality is \$3.2 million, and \$261,000 per hospitalised injury.
- Every crash increases pressure on a stretched hospital system, results in reduced worker productivity, and poses a significant burden on families and communities. In 2025, we saw a 4.7 per cent increase in deaths of vulnerable road users (e.g. pedestrians and cyclists), the highest in over five years.