



Rural Speed Reductions Fact Sheet



Most crashes (38 per cent) that result in death occur on high speed rural roads midblock.

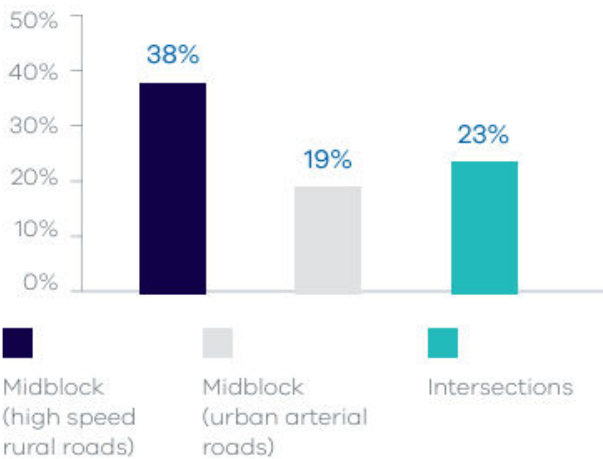


WHY RURAL SPEED REDUCTIONS?

Over 2,000 people are injured and killed on high-speed rural roads across Victoria each year.

High vehicle speeds result in high, non-survivable impact forces. Reducing those speeds will reduce road trauma.

DEATHS



Victorian Road Safety Strategy, 2021-2030



BENEFITS



Lower speed limits are a cost effective way to help mitigate these risks by giving drivers more time to react to unexpected situations, reducing the likelihood and severity of crashes.



Lower speeds mean that drivers have a better chance of recovering control of their vehicle, reducing the risk of run off road or head on crashes.



Lower speeds mean that drivers have a better opportunity to avoid a collision with a vehicle merging from a side road or turning right across their path.





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WHY RURAL AREAS?

We have a vast network of high-speed rural roads and a significant diversity in typical carriageway cross-sections. Four examples are shown below, all of which are currently permitted for 100km/h vehicle travel. The road and roadside infrastructure are evidently quite varied, yet the maximum travel speed remains the same.

Generally, high-volume roads have higher strategic functions - thus high-speeds may be maintained with infrastructure investment. Lower-volume roads are more appropriate to implement speed reductions.



Where there is a lack of road and roadside safety infrastructure and a lack in funding opportunities to transform these road environments, there is a compelling case for rural speed reductions to reduce the risk of crashes.





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FURTHER READING

GUIDANCE / NOTES:

- [Austroads Guide to Road Safety Part 3 Safe Speed](#)
- [VicRoads Technical Speed Zoning Guidelines](#)
- [VicRoads Speed Zoning Policy](#)

CASE STUDY:

- [Mornington Peninsula 80km/h speed zones](#)
- [Tasmania uses default 80km/h for all unsealed roads](#)

A **small change** in travel speed



A **relatively large change** in stopping distance



A **much larger change** in impact speed



A **still larger change** in impact energy



A **very large change** in probability of death and serious injury

[Austroads Guide to Road Safety Part 3 Safe Speed](#)

MORE INFO?

We're here to help.

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