

Inquiry into the Australian National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020

Wednesday 14 November, 9:00am – 9:45am

A/Professor Jeremy Woolley will be presenting on a recent inquiry into the Australian National Road Safety Strategy he co-chaired with Dr John Crozier from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. Released in September 2018, key headlines from the inquiry include a lack of focus on a harm elimination agenda, implementation failure and the need for stimulus and scale. Twelve recommendations were delivered that seek to create a climate for success and lead to a significant uplift in road safety performance for the nation. The inquiry found that a lack of adequate leadership at the highest levels was contributing to a crisis of complacency leading to missed opportunities and unintended sub-optimal strategic approaches. Capacity, resourcing, change management and capability to pursue the aspiration of zero death and serious injury was poorly understood and many of the tools, frameworks and quality assurance required were only gaining momentum towards the end of the strategy. A need was identified to move from coping with the road safety problem to taking opportunities to fix it once and for all. This could not happen overnight however it was apparent that safety had still not been mainstreamed into core business activities. While focussed on the Australian situation, the inquiry is likely to contain many findings and recommendations that are relevant to the road safety situation in New Zealand.



Assoc Prof Jeremy Woolley, Director of the Centre for Automotive Safety Research (CASR), University of Adelaide

CASR is a multidisciplinary research centre that has been conducting road safety research dating back to the 1960s of which at-scene crash investigation has been an integral part of its activity. CASR also provides crash testing for the Australasian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP) and statistical analyses and evaluations to assist with policy development.

Jeremy has been involved in road safety research for over 20 years and is noted for his leadership and knowledge transfer activities across many sectors and within all levels of government. Although specialising in speed management and road infrastructure, he is a road safety generalist who has had involvement with a diverse range of road safety areas in the past ranging from Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), enforcement and regulation, young and old drivers, heavy vehicles, data management, policy evaluation, human factors, vehicle safety, road safety communications, road safety auditing, Safe System assessment and teaching. He is a regular participant in state and national projects that seek to achieve alignment with the Safe System approach to road safety and has also been an active contributor and developer of road safety strategies and action plans in multiple jurisdictions.

Jeremy accepted an invitation in 2017 by then Federal Infrastructure and Transport Minister, the Hon Darren Chester MP, to co-chair an inquiry into the performance of the Australian National Road Safety Strategy (NRSS). The terms of reference allowed for an assessment of current performance and also the consideration of future responses to road safety. The other Inquiry panellists included co-chair Dr John Crozier (Royal Australasian College of Surgeons) and official advisors Mr Lauchlan McIntosh (Chair of Global NCAP and President of the Australasian College of Road Safety) and Mr Robert McInerney (CEO of iRAP). The findings from the inquiry were released at a non-partisan event hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Michael McCormack on 12 September 2018 in Canberra.