



THE CHANGING ROLE OF **THE DRIVER** ON THE **PATH TO ZERO**



Austroads

Michael Nieuwesteeg

Austroads Road Safety & Design Program Manager

Dr Hafez Alavi

Austroads Charting a Path to Zero Project Manager

Australia



Austrroads

The Association of Australian and New Zealand Transport Agencies

PURPOSE: Contribute to development and delivery of the Australasian transport vision by:

- **Includes** all state and territory transport agencies, the Australian federal government, the New Zealand transport agency, and the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA).

- **Developing** and Promoting National Practices.

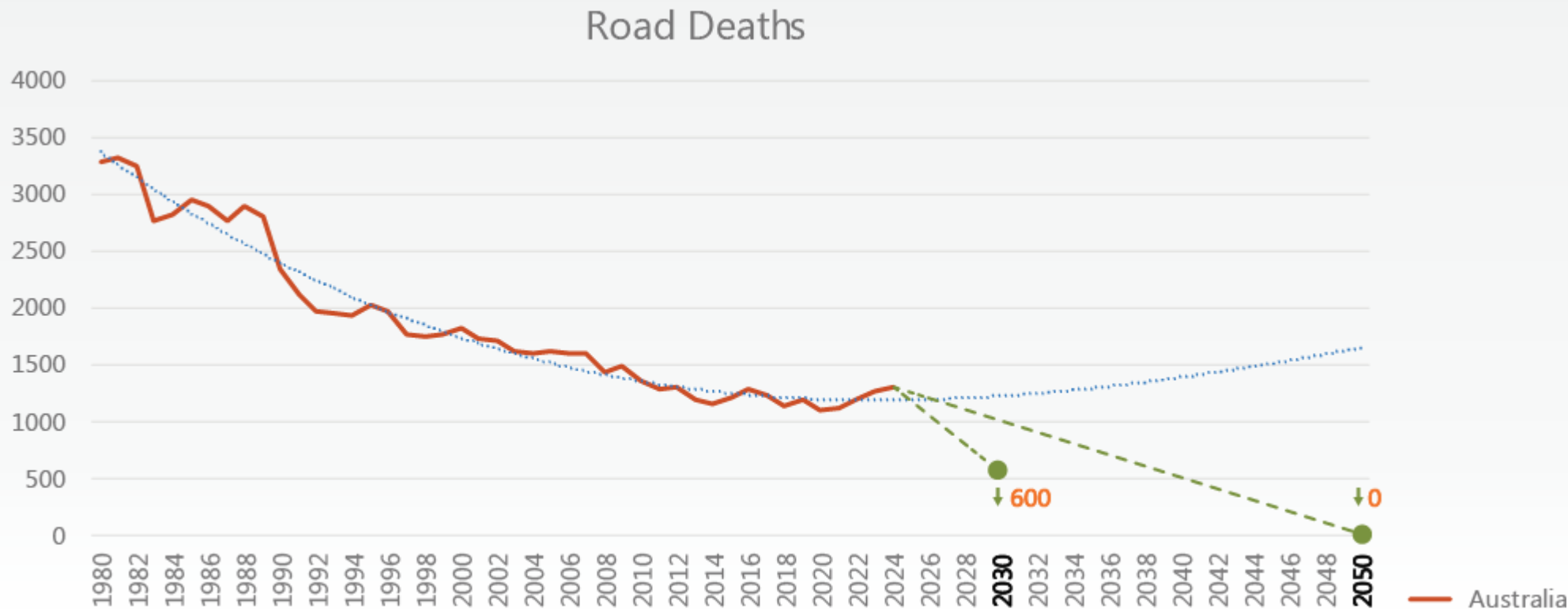
- **Supporting** safe and effective management and use of the road system, and providing professional advice to member organisations and national and international bodies.



- **Supporting** road agencies to deliver national outcomes for 90 years.

How Are We Travelling Against Our Aim?

50% Reduction in Deaths By 2030



Problem Definition

A

+1,300
 of Deaths

and roughly

42,000
 Serious Injuries

annually across
 Australia

B

Traditional
 incremental
 improvements
 insufficient
 to reach
**Vision
 Zero**

C

**Growing
 complexity**

- Aging Population
- New Vehicle Technologies
- Rising Active Transport
- Micromobility...

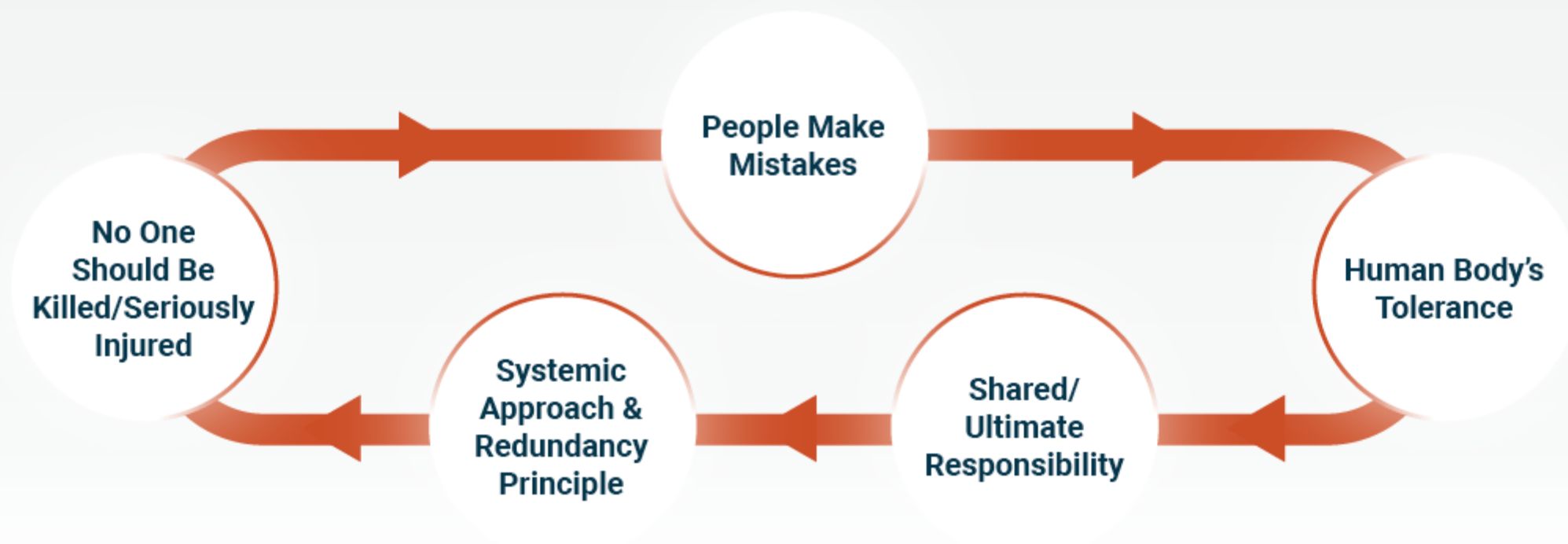
D

**Evolving
 role of human
 in the system**

(e.g., as

- Driver
- Rider
- Passenger
- Pedestrian)

Vision Zero Safe System Principles



Safe System & Road Safety Management

- Safe System
- Road Safety Management



(Informed by Global Road Safety Facility, 2013)

Charting a Path to Zero Vision

Practical Guidance to Help Progress the
All-Government-Levels Leadership Needed to Fully
Implement the Necessary Actions to Reduce Fatalities
and Serious Injuries to Zero by 2050.



Charting a Path to Zero

Streams of Work

STREAM 1



Planning for Zero Framework

Key Definitions

Road Safety Assessments

Planning for Zero Framework
(Blueprint)

STREAM 2



Zero Pathways

Turning the PfZF Blueprint
into tailored Zero Pathways

Communication
and Engagement Plans

Change Management Approach

Training Concepts
to Guide Practitioners

STREAM 3



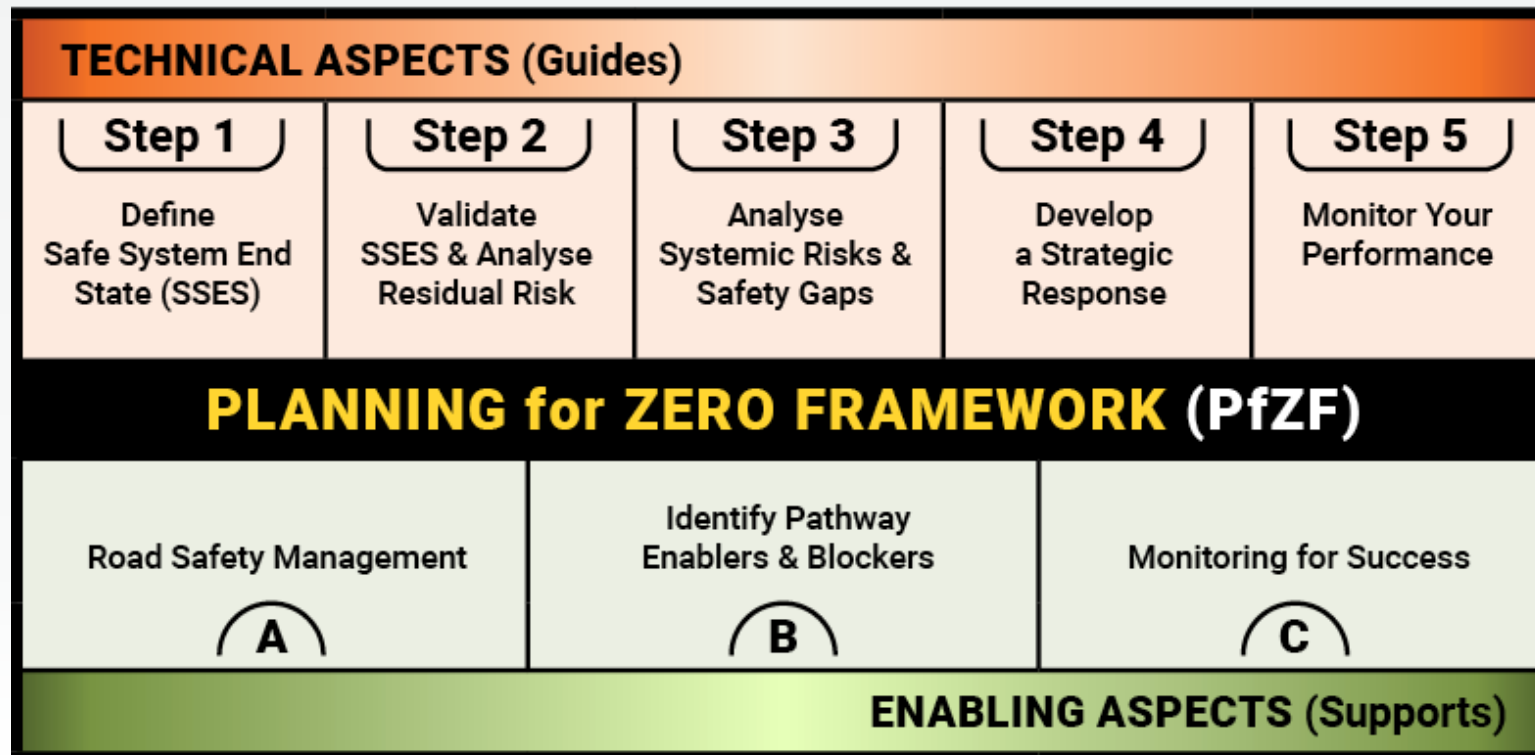
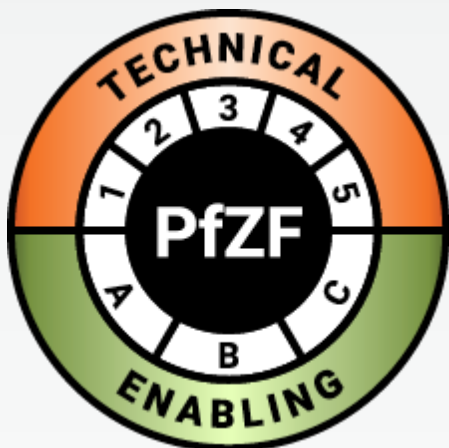
Further Research Gaps

Collate Research Gaps
Identified in the Project and
Similar Projects

Develop a Pipeline of
Research Projects for the
Next 5-10 years

Charting a Path to Zero

Planning for Zero Framework (PfZF)



Safe System End States



What is a
**Safe
 System
 End State** (SSES)?



Defining a Safe Road System



One Network Framework (ONF) Factsheet 2025
 (New Zealand Transport Agency)

SSES – An Example Activity Streets



Requirements	Vehicles	Infrastructure	Maximum Travel Speed
<p>Mix of road users</p> <p>No motorcycles or heavy vehicles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ AEB bicyclist ✓ AEB pedestrian ✓ AEB rear-end ✓ AEB intersection ✓ AEB head-on ✓ ISA limiting or geofencing ✓ Seatbelt interlock ✓ Front, side and rear underrun protection for heavy vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Off road separated lanes not in pedestrian areas for bicycles and micro-mobility devices ✓ Pedestrian crossing with 10km/h speed zone ✓ Frangible narrow roadside objects/and or removal of hazardous narrow roadside objects ✓ 5 m distance from sidewalk to road lane/ or pedestrian fencing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 40 km/h BUT ✓ 10 km/h at pedestrian crossings ✓ 20 km/h at intersections

(Truong et. al., 2022)

Achieving Vision Zero In 3 Stages

The transition to Vision Zero
involves three stages:

Current Stage (2020 ~ 2030)

- ▶ Focus on cost-effective improvements
- ▶ Uses traditional methods like enforcement, driver training, speed control, and better infrastructure.

Transitional Stage (2025 ~ 2045)

- ▶ Shifts toward Vision Zero goals
- ▶ Emphasises safer vehicles (5-star rated), Safe System speeds, and compliant infrastructure.

Vision Zero Stage (~ 2050+)

- ▶ Road system fully designed to manage human errors
- ▶ Aims to eliminate deaths and serious injuries on the road.

Role of Human Factors and Error In Road Safety

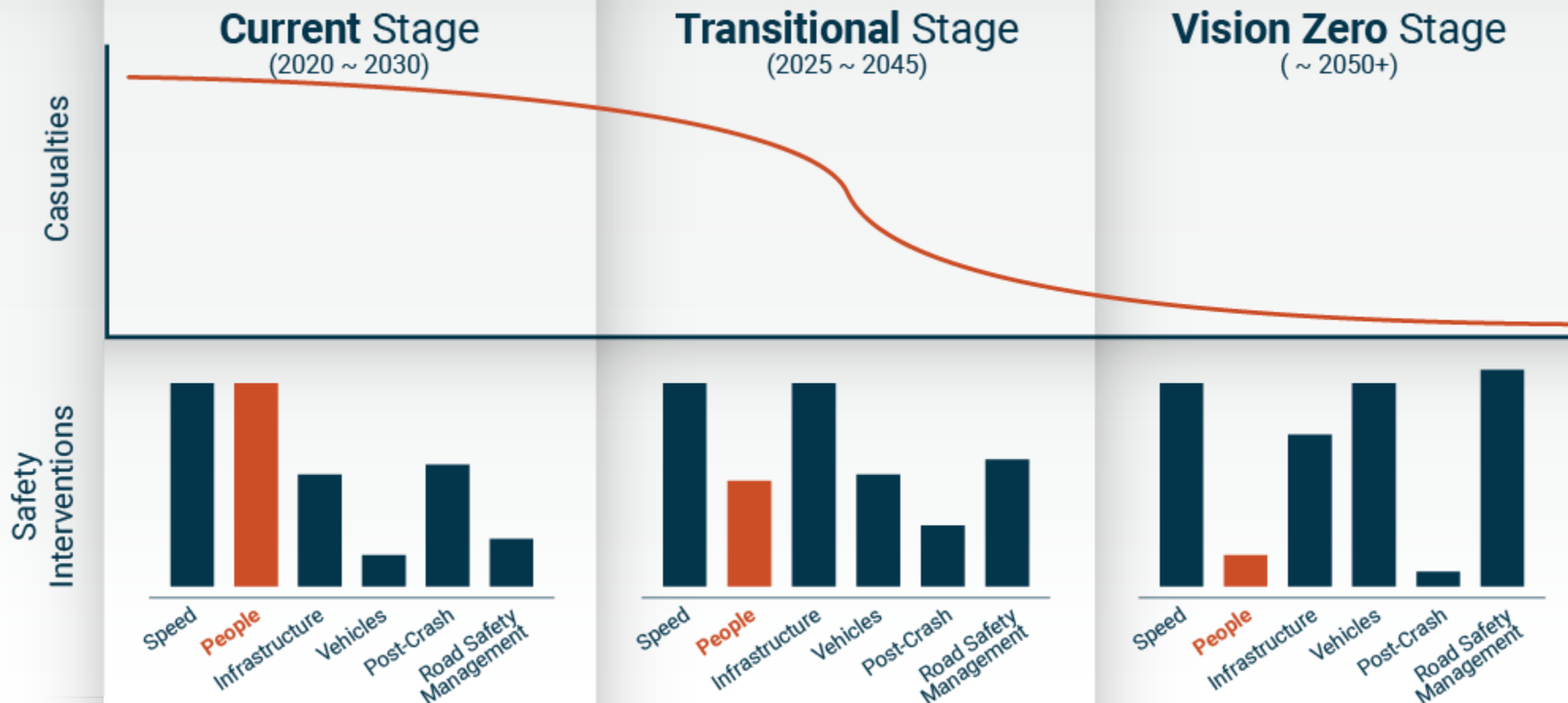
► **Human Factors** ensures that system design aligns with real human capabilities and limitations.



► **Human Error** is often a symptom of “bad” or mismatched design rather than the root cause of crashes.



Evolution of the Role of “Safe People” In Vision Zero



Safe People Intervention

1

Changing Role of Driver

Current ► Transitional
► Vision Zero Stage

2

Licensing

Training, Testing,
Monitoring, Fitness to Drive

3

Registration

Vehicle
Safety Compliance

4

Vehicle Technology

ADAS,
Connectivity

Safe People Intervention

1 Changing Role of the Driver

Current
Stage (2020 ~ 2030)

Transitional
Stage (2025 ~ 2045)

Vision Zero
Stage (~ 2050+)

Active Decision-Makers



Supervised Participants

Safe People Intervention

1 Changing Role of the Driver

Current Stage (2020 ~ 2030)

Active Decision-Makers

Focus on competence and behaviour/
attitude through:

- ✓ Driver training
- ✓ Driver testing and assessment
- ✓ Driver education
- ✓ Fitness to drive
- ✓ Enforcement
- ✓ Penalties/infringements/restrictions

Transitional Stage (2025 ~ 2045)

Start Doing:

- ✓ Planning for Zero Framework approach
- ✓ Adopting Safe System End States
- ✓ Intelligent speed assist (advisory)
- ✓ Driver training to focus on ADAS, systems monitoring, rare events
- ✓ Differential licensing (e.g., ADAS-only licence)
- ✓ Vehicle systems monitoring
- ✓ Remote enforcement
- ✓ Re-calibrate fitness-to-drive

Stop Doing:

- ✗ Speeding tolerances & spot policing
- ✗ Approving low-spec vehicles
- ✗ Designing high risk infrastructure
- ✗ Blame-the-user crash investigations
- ✗ Others?

Vision Zero Stage (~ 2050+)

Supervised Participants

- ✓ **Safe Speeds** – Geofenced, tamper-proof limiting ISA to manage kinetic energy within human tolerance
- ✓ **Safe Vehicles** – Connected/autonomous/ADAS-equipped
- ✓ **Safe Roads** – Self-explaining (human factors), either separate users or dissipate impact energy
- ✓ **Safe Road Use** – Continuous readiness and impairment monitoring, ensuring unfit drivers cannot take control
- ✓ **System Resilience** – Unified real-time data and shared designer/operator responsibility ensure no single failure escalates to fatal or serious harm.

Safe People Intervention

2 Licensing - *Principles*

1 Safety

Drivers/riders are skilled and approach driving/riding with attitudes that support road safety



2 Consistency

There are uniform licence rules and sanctions



3 Efficiency

Administration effort is minimised



4 Accuracy

Drivers/riders are accurately identified and fraud is minimised



5 Protection

Vulnerable and higher risk drivers/riders are supported



Scan QR code for full details
(AP-G107-24/Austrorads)

▶ Graduated Licensing Systems (GLS)

▶ Minimum Supervised Driving Hours
(e.g., 120-hour log-book)

▶ Hazard Perception Training + Testing

▶ Alcohol-Ignition Interlock Programs

▶ Point-based Licence Sanction Systems with
Swift Suspension for High-risk Offences

▶ Targeted Medical-fitness Screening and
Shorter Renewal Cycles for High-risk Groups
(older and medically at-risk drivers)

▶ Managing Vehicle Access Through Technology

Safe People Intervention

3 Registration - *Principles*

1 Safety Compliance

2 Accurate Identity & Traceability

3 Data Integrity & Sharing

4 National Consistency

5 Administrative Efficiency

6 Consumer Protection & Equity

Safe People Intervention



3 Registration - *Effective Interventions*

▶ Linking Registration Renewal to
Safety Recall Closure

▶ Mandatory Written-Off/Salvage
Branding Schemes

▶ Periodic Roadworthiness Inspections (PVIs)
for Ageing Vehicles

▶ Real-Time ANPR Enforcement of
Unregistered & Uninsured Vehicles

▶ Differential Registration Fees Based on
Vehicle Safety Performance

▶ Shorter Renewal Cycles and Inspections for
Older or High-Risk Vehicle Types

▶ Automated Recall Notifications at the
Point of Ownership Transfer

Safe People Intervention

4 Vehicle Technology - ADAS

Technologies integrated into vehicles that provide automated, adaptive, or enhanced features to assist the driver in controlling the vehicle and responding to road hazards:

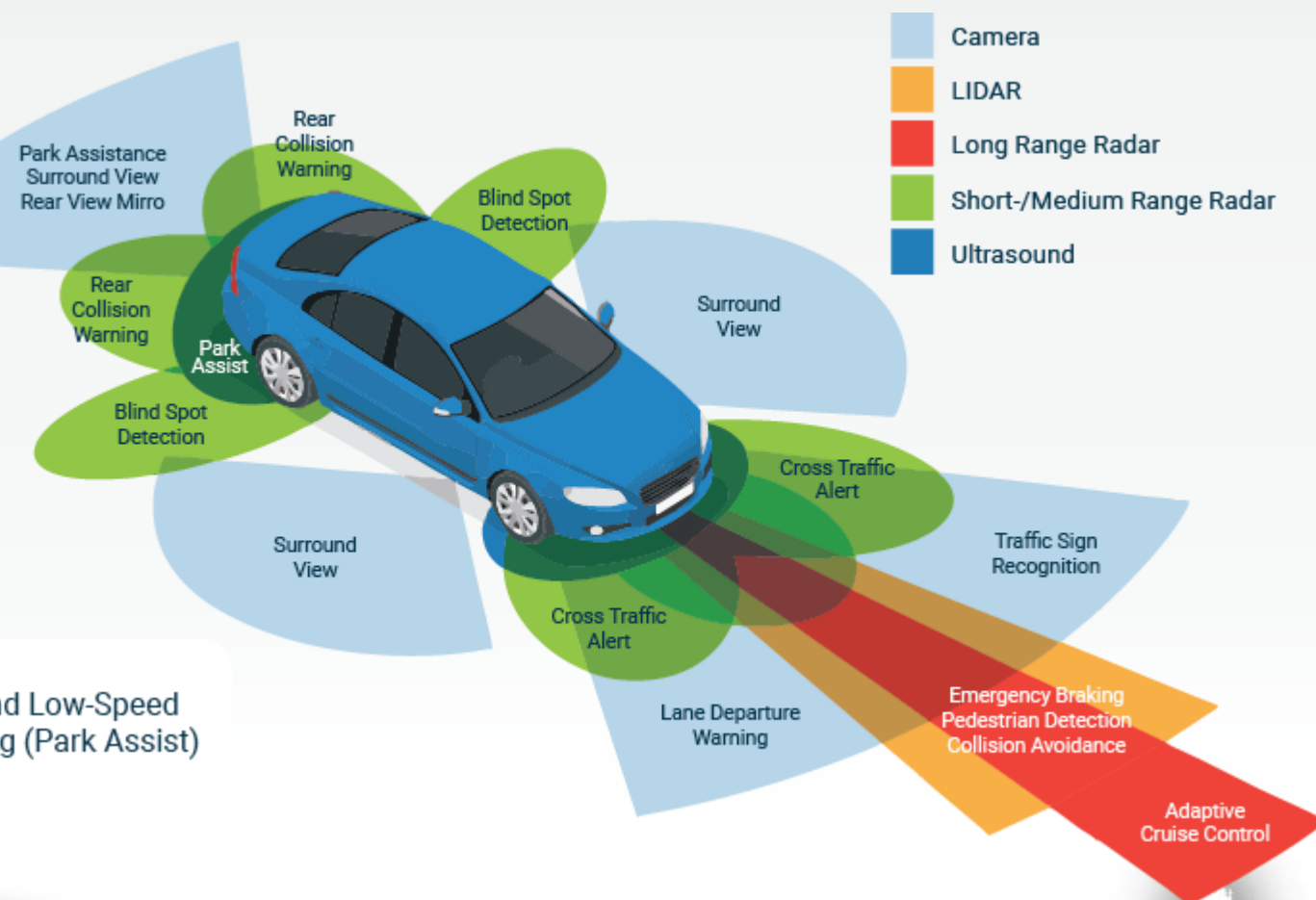
Collision Avoidance and
Emergency Response
(AEB, FCW)

Speed and Distance
Control (ACC, ISA)

Lane and Path
Support (LDW, LKA)

Blind Spot and
Surround Awareness
(BSM)

Parking and Low-Speed
Manoeuvring (Park Assist)



Safe People Intervention

4 Vehicle Technology - CAV

Vehicles equipped with automated driving functions and communication capabilities that allow them to interact with other vehicles, infrastructure, and road users – a few examples:

Automated Driving
System (ADS)

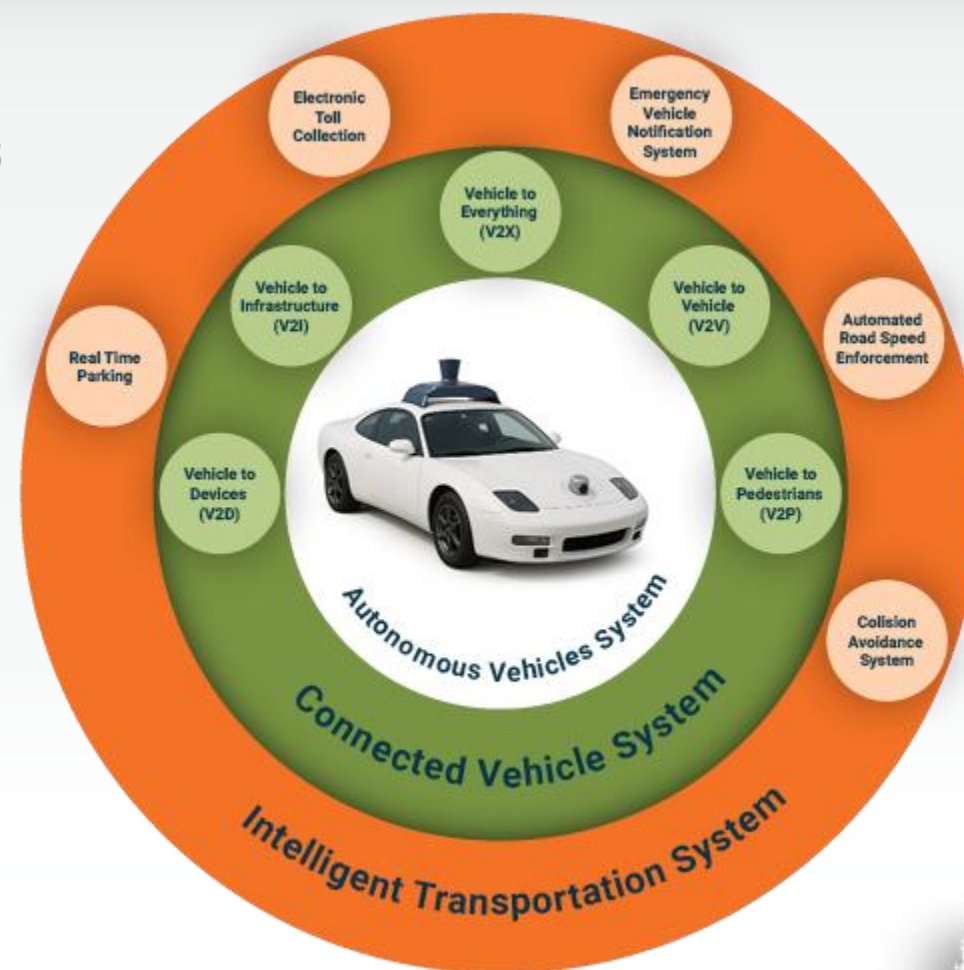
Co-operative Adaptive
Cruise Control & Platooning

Automated Shuttle /
Robo-Taxi Systems

Vehicle-to-Everything
(V2X) Connectivity

Low- / Zero-Emission
Automated Vehicles
(ALZEV / CALZEV)

Automated Freight /
Truck Systems



Call to Action



Appropriately Include Safe People and Human Factors in Vision Zero Planning & Strategies



Modernise Licensing & Registration
(Based on Principles & Effective Interventions)



Prepare for CAV & Accelerate ADAS Uptake



Smarter Speed Management



Policy & Regulation Enablers



Road-Vehicle Interface Readiness



Thank You!



Michael Nieuwesteeg

Austroads Road Safety & Design Program Manager

mnieuwesteeg@austrroads.gov.au

austrroads.gov.au

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