



## ROAD SAFETY

# Keeping Canberrans safe on our roads.

ACT Greens want everyone to be able to travel across our city, safely.

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Road safety is a key and often overlooked area of the ACT Government’s responsibilities. Further work needs to be done to eliminate the many deaths and injuries occurring in our road traffic system every year.

The latest 2015 ACT Road Crash Report showed that 15 people were killed and 131 hospitalised following crashes on ACT roads. The Greens believe it is unsatisfactory to accept that road deaths are an inevitable part of our transport system and we support the “Vision Zero” philosophy, which prioritises human life and health.

We also recognise that policies that prioritise sustainable transport – walking, cycling and public transport – play an important role in improving road safety. Our approach to road safety seeks to genuinely implement policies and frameworks that will create a safe and sustainable travelling environment for everyone.

### > Properly implement ‘Vision Zero’

The ACT Greens support the road safety system called “Vision Zero”. Vision Zero aims for zero deaths in the road transport system. It emphasises the fact that every life is important. It also emphasises human fallibility and says that people shouldn’t die because they make an error on the road.

This approach places ultimate responsibility on those who design the road transport system to accommodate human error.

The Greens also support the “Vision Zero 2.0” concept adopted in Sweden in recent years, which builds on Vision Zero. It emphasises the benefits of having a sustainable and liveable city, and the health benefits and reduction in deaths and injuries that result from more people walking and cycling.

While the ACT Government has announced its support for “Vision Zero”, and to some extent its policies and actions support planning for liveable and sustainable city, there is much more it can do to genuinely integrate these policies into all areas of Government action and activity.

To integrate Vision Zero (and Vision Zero 2.0) formally into the ACT’s traffic planning system, the Greens support formalising its principles and objectives into legislation and planning guidelines and regulations.

### > Safe System Assessment Framework

The Greens will ensure the ACT Government formally adopts the Safe System Assessment Framework into its traffic planning and assessment processes. This is a best practice framework to ensure road project designs and operation align with the Safe System objectives.

The Safe System approach involves different elements of the system working together to help eliminate death and serious injury and it particularly requires road managers to ensure that when driver errors do occur, they do not result in severe outcomes.

## **> Safer roads for Vulnerable Road Users**

The Greens are concerned about the disproportionate representation of vulnerable road users (pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists) in deaths and injuries on ACT roads. Our response to road safety includes specific measures to improve the safety and usability of these transport modes. This not only will reduce deaths and injuries directly, but will also make sustainable modes of transport more attractive, which in turn increases road safety.

Safety improvements for vulnerable road users include ensuring a proportion of black spot funding is spent on projects benefiting vulnerable road users; investment in sustainable transport - including quality active travel infrastructure such as separated cycling facilities, public transport and age-friendly communities; and planning and design improvements, including improved active travel design standards and planning changes to ensure improved and high quality active travel networks in new estates.