

Protecting motorcyclists along the Oxley Highway

Issue

The Oxley Highway between Wauchope and Walcha is a popular route amongst motorcyclists from all over Australia as it has many tight and demanding corners which require skill and concentration. A 44km section of this ride recorded a significantly high crash rate, with 42 motorcyclist crashes over five years resulting in five motorcyclist fatalities.



Response

In 2015 Transport for NSW completed a [Route Safety Review](#) of the Oxley Highway. The review identified the need for a number of improvements, including upgrading the infrastructure and reviewing the existing speed zones.

A Safe System approach was adopted. This recognises that all components - the road users, roads and roadsides, vehicles and travel speeds have a role to play in helping to keep road users safe.

Stakeholder engagement

An Oxley Highway Motorcycle Working Group was formed to bring together road safety insights from different perspectives, local knowledge and a customer focus to ensure a shared approach to improving road safety.

The working group was lead by Transport for NSW and included representatives from:

- Motorcycle Council of NSW
- Local NSW Police
- Walcha Shire Council
- Port Macquarie Hastings Council
- Local businesses, community groups and local riders





Safe System response

Safer Speeds

- Reduction in speed limit from 100km/h to 80km/h between Mount Seaview and Yarrawitch.
- Vehicle Activated Signs on curves with high run-off road crash rates.
- Enhanced enforcement by NSW Police Highway Patrol for speed management.



Safer Vehicles

- Roadside community engagement in partnership with NSW Police Highway Patrol for [MotoCAP](#) rated safety gear.



Safer Roads

- \$2 million safety works funding as part of the NSW Safer Roads program for curve warning and speed advisory signage, barrier systems and underrun.
- Crash warning signage installed on both approaches to the 80km/h speed zone.



Safer People

- Oxley Highway [‘Roads We Ride’](#) YouTube video.
- Transport for NSW attendance at Motofest 2018 in Wauchope.
- Roadside display cabinets in pullover areas with route maps providing [‘Ride to Live’](#) educational material.

Outcome

Since the completion of the Safe System package of works, there has been a downward trend in the number of fatal & serious injury motorcyclist casualties.

The continued collaborative approach between community and agencies is achieving improved road safety for our customers.

Learnings

- Adopting a Safe System approach to produce positive road safety outcomes can be achieved through sound road safety planning and analysis, coupled with input from various stakeholders and cooperation with the public.
- A coordinated approach to police enforcement and education campaigns on speeding is needed to encourage behavioural change and increase community understanding of risky road use.



Snippet from the ‘Roads We Ride - Oxley Highway’ video

A safe systems response

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ISSUE

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RESPONSE

In 2015 the NSW Government completed a Route Safety Review of the Oxley Highway. The review identified the need for a number of improvements, including upgrading the infrastructure and reviewing the existing speed zones. A Safe System approach was adopted. This recognises that all components - the road users, roads and roadsides, vehicles and travel speeds have a role to play in helping to keep road users safe.



Too many lives lost on NSW roads
Our goal is zero

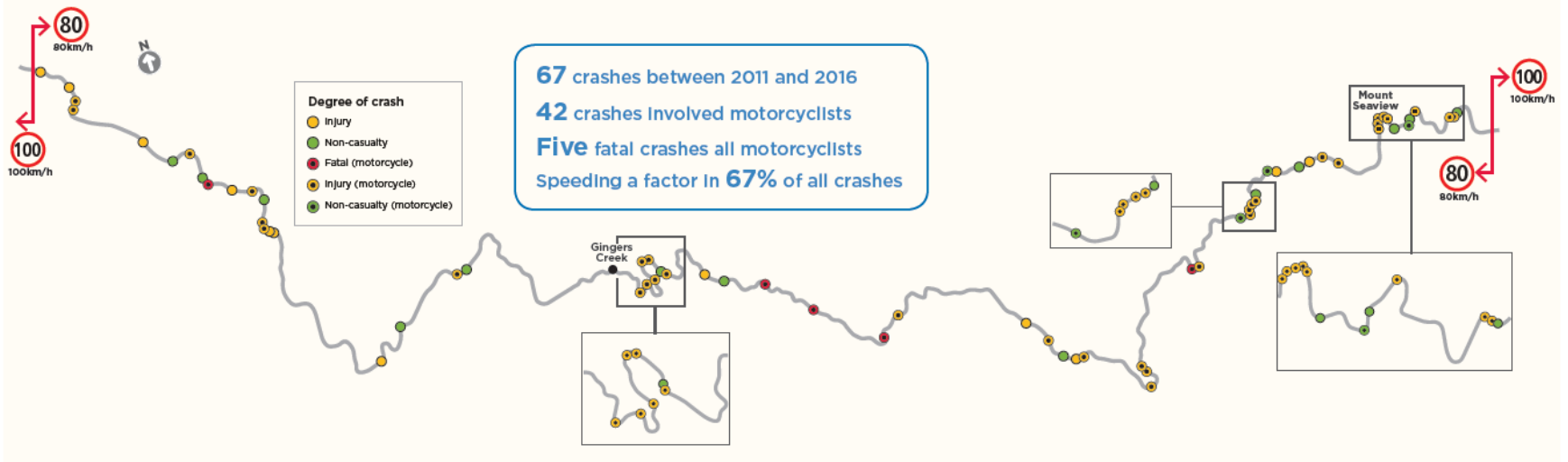
Chantal Ensbej, Road User Safety Officer - Transport for NSW



A safe system response – Protecting motorcyclists along the Oxley Highway

Chantal Ensbey September 2019

Issue



Crash data from 2011 to 2016 for a 44km section along the Oxley Highway

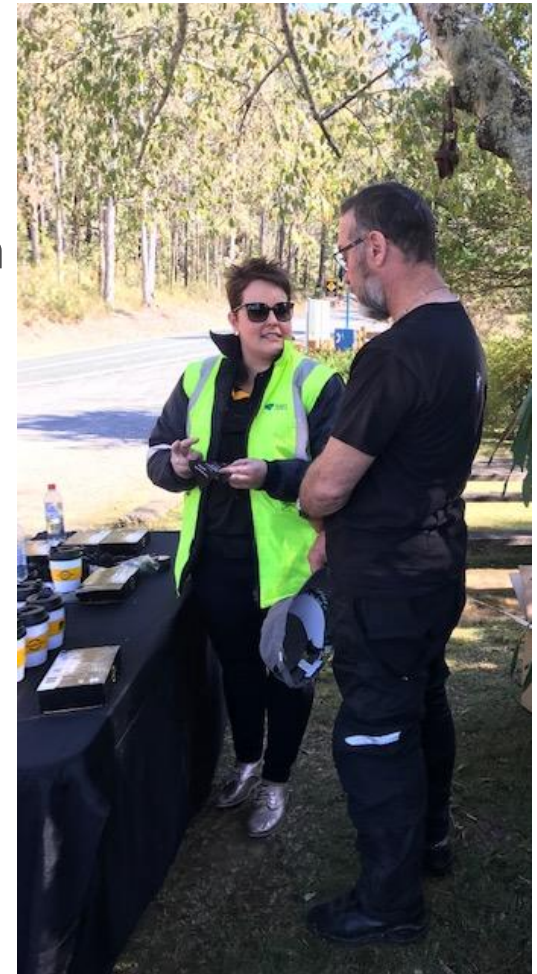
Response

Safer Speeds

- Reduction in speed limit from 100km/h to 80km/h
- Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) on curves
- Roadside enforcement

Safer Vehicles

- MotoCAP education to riders -
with NSW Police Highway Patrol



Response

Safer Roads

- \$2 million safety works funding – NSW Safer Roads Program
 - i. Curve warning & speed advisory signage
 - ii. Barrier systems
 - iii. Underrun

Safer People

- Oxley 'Roads We Ride' YouTube video
- Educational material – posters, banners
- Motofest 2018 in Wauchope
- Roadside display boxes in pullover areas



Partnerships

- Transport for NSW
- Centre for Road Safety
- Motorcycle Council of NSW
- Walcha Shire Council
- NSW Police
- Community Groups
- Port Macquarie Hastings Council
- Local Businesses

