

ROAD POLICING STRATEGY 2019 - 2021



**Northern Territory
Police Force**





*Northern Territory Police Force (NTPF)
is a large, diverse organisation,
servicing the whole of the
Northern Territory, covering everything
from densely populated urban areas
to remote communities and large
regions of native bushland.*

*The local population is equally as
diverse, with many different nationalities
and cultures living and working
throughout the Northern Territory.*

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Commissioner's Foreword

On average 48 people are killed on Territory roads each year and over 540 people are seriously injured. With our road toll nearly five times the national rate, it is time for the entire community to get serious about road safety.

The need for a renewed strategy is clear. Despite substantial progress in road safety over the last 30 years; the Northern Territory, notwithstanding its challenges, falls behind every other jurisdiction in Australia.

As road users grow, our current efforts will not be enough to further reduce the level and impact of road crashes. Underpinned by the Northern Territory Government's [Towards Zero](#), the Northern Territory Police Force's Road Policing Strategy 2019-2021 represents a new approach to this problem.

This strategy is designed to guide our agency's efforts to improve road safety throughout the Northern Territory. The work set out in this strategy will be of the utmost importance. It builds upon our successes, strengthens our commitment and elevates our ambitions. It sets out the direction and actions we will take to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on our roads.

A change in driver behaviour and a reduction in serious road trauma requires a multi-faceted approach involving the efforts of many.

We will improve our enforcement capability by intelligence-led, evidence-based deployment of resources to enhance visibility and effective service delivery.

Collaboration will be key to the success of this strategy; collaboration across our community and road safety stakeholders, and across the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services activities and road policing operations.

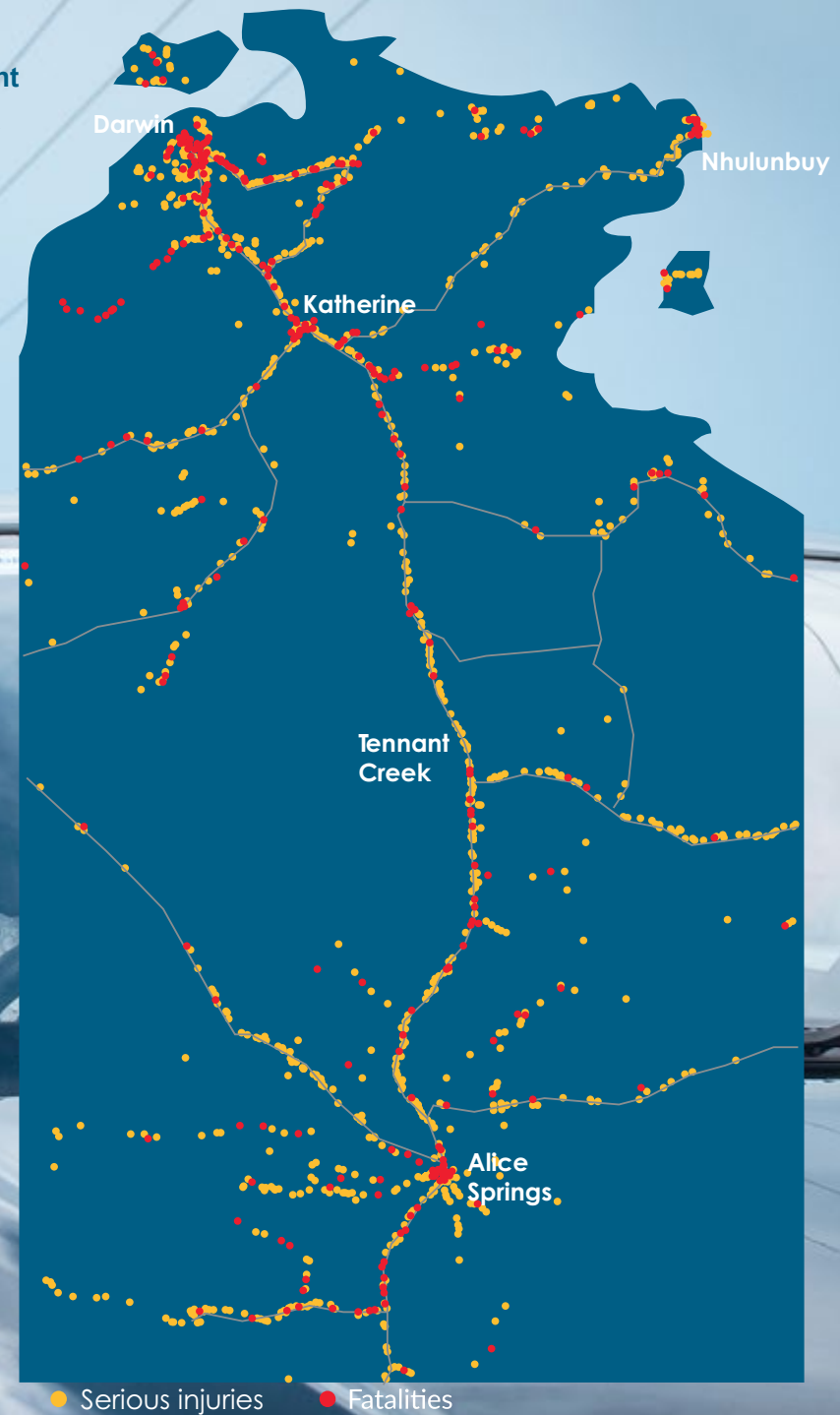
It is a long journey, and by sharing responsibility and working together, we will aspire to and commence the journey Towards Zero and maintain a safer Northern Territory.



Reece P Kershaw APM
Commissioner of Police and
CEO of Fire and Emergency Services



Location of
NT significant
road trauma
(2007-2016)



Source: Towards Zero Road Safety Action Plan 2018-22

Introduction

The Northern Territory (NT) is home to over 240,000 people, with more than 100 nationalities spanning an area of more than 1.4 million square kilometres.

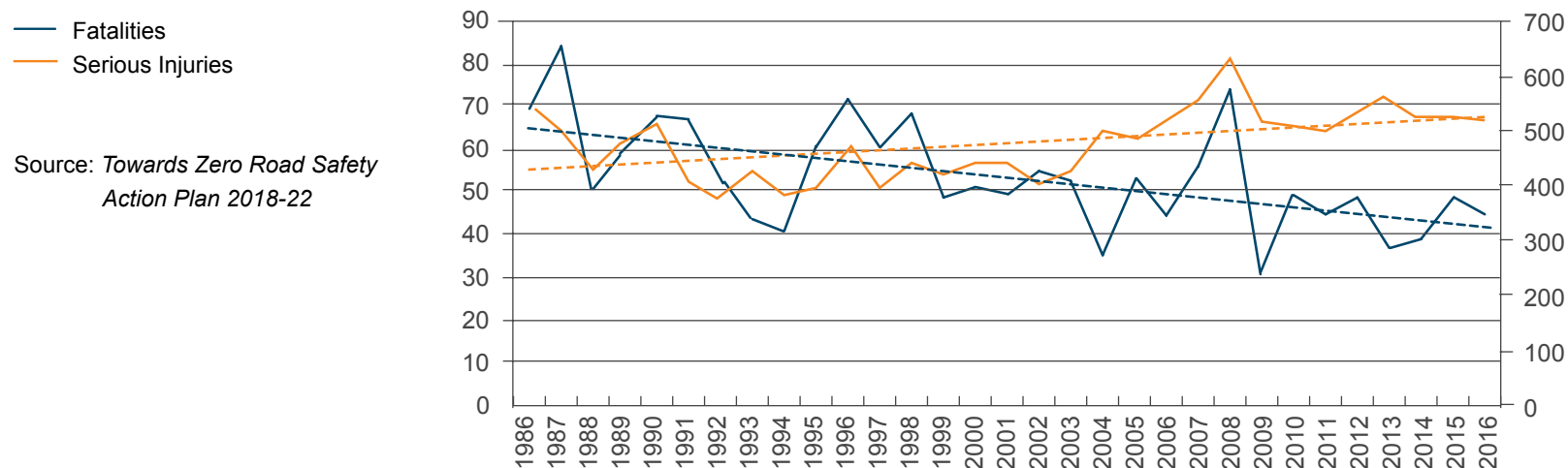
Our small population is widely dispersed across the Territory from our main urban centres of Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs to our very remote communities. This requires people living in our regional and remote areas to spend more time on our roads to access service centres.

Approximately three quarters of our 36,000 km of roads are unsealed and our geography and extreme climate creates challenges for road users and the NT Police Force.

The Territory has the highest rate of road deaths per 100,000 population, per 10,000 registered vehicles and per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled (VKT) in Australia.

The NT continues to struggle to address the most fundamental road safety issues such as drink driving, wearing seatbelts and speeding. These are all areas where other jurisdictions have made significant progress, however they remain a challenge in the NT, particularly in our regional and remote areas.

Northern Territory Road Fatalities and Serious Injuries (1986-2016)





Our Aim

The aim of the NTPF Road Policing Strategy 2019-2021 is to reduce the harm on our roads.

With an aspirational goal *Towards Zero*, the NTPF Road Safety Strategy 2019-2021 is underpinned by a range of Northern Territory Government (NTG) and Commonwealth Government plans and strategies, in particular

the NTG *Towards Zero Road Safety Action Plan 2018-2022*, which sits alongside Australia's *National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020*.



NT Road Safety Fast Facts



IN THE NT, THERE ARE APPROX.
140,000 LICENSED DRIVERS AND
158,000 REGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES.



ABORIGINAL PEOPLE ARE OVER-REPRESENTED
IN FATALITY STATISTICS ACCOUNTING FOR
NEARLY 50% OF ROAD DEATHS.



SPEED IS
A FACTOR IN
**OVER A
QUARTER**
OF ROAD FATALITIES.

THE RATE OF
ROAD CRASHES
INCREASES AT
THE PEAK OF THE
NT DRY SEASON.



**OVER 50% OF
FATAL CRASHES**
OCCUR ON **MAJOR
HIGHWAYS** AND
ARTERIAL ROADS IN THE NT.



AROUND **TWO THIRDS** OF
ROAD FATALITIES AND
HALF OF THE SERIOUS INJURIES
OCCUR ON ROADS **OUTSIDE
OF GREATER DARWIN
AND THE ALICE SPRINGS
URBAN AREA.**



ABOUT **45% OF
FATALITIES** AND
**20% OF SERIOUS
CRASH INJURIES** ARE
**ALCOHOL
RELATED.**



**41% OF
FATALITIES
IN THE NT**
ARE RELATED
TO A DRIVER AND/
OR PASSENGER
**NOT WEARING
A SEATBELT.**

Our Goals

Our goal is to reduce fatal and injury collisions throughout the Northern Territory, whilst ensuring our roads are amongst the safest in Australia.

This Road Policing Strategy will direct resources to road policing activities in the right place and at the right time. Through education, awareness, deterrence, enforcement and working together our goals are:

1. Reduce death and serious injury collisions on our roads;
2. Increase dedicated evidence based police traffic enforcement activities (*Towards Zero*);
3. Target repeat traffic offenders; and
4. Increase Road Safety Policing through improved visibility, activity and messaging.





Drugs and Alcohol

The number of people charged with impaired driving (drug and alcohol impairment) has continued to rise.

In 2018, about 45% of all road related fatalities and 20% of serious crash injuries were alcohol related. The evidence suggests that the incidence of drug related driving is increasing significantly. In the last 12 months, 362 people were charged with drug driving related offences. There were also 1,823 apprehensions of drink driving over the 2017-18 financial year. Approximately 74.8% of these apprehensions were medium range and high range drink driving offences.

The NT Police Force is committed to eliminating impaired driving. The simple message is that if you drink or take drugs, do not drive.

Our efforts to make our roads safer and reduce impaired driving will focus on raising public awareness, collaborating with our partners, enhancing legislation and enforcement activities, as well as exploring technology to make our roads safer.



Who's your sober bob is a NTG road safety campaign encouraging Territorians not to drink and drive and to use a dedicated driver to get home safely when they have been drinking.

The NT Police Force encourages the community to 'dob in a drunk or drugged driver' by contacting police on 131 444 or Crime Stoppers (if there is no immediate danger).

Seatbelts

Seatbelts are the single most effective way to reduce the chance (or extent) of injuries when involved in motor vehicle collisions. All vehicle occupants in the Northern Territory must wear properly adjusted and fastened seatbelts.

Approximately 41% of fatal collisions in the Northern Territory are related to a driver and/or passenger not wearing a seatbelt. In 2018, 2,559 people were issued infringements for seatbelt related offences.

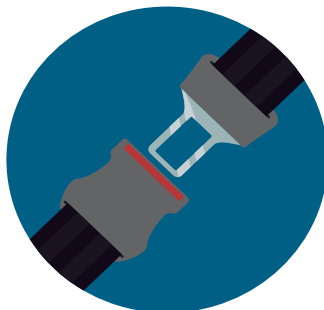
Groups more likely to not wear a seatbelt include:

- intoxicated drivers and passengers;
- young people aged 15-24 years;
- people living in rural and remote areas; and
- children aged 0-14 if the driver is also not wearing a seatbelt.

Fatalities attributed to not wearing seatbelts mostly occur on roads with higher speed limits in rural and remote areas.

Prevention and enforcement strategies have a positive impact in ensuring every person in a vehicle is properly restrained and safe. Too many people are still not wearing seatbelts and NT police will have a zero tolerance towards seatbelt related offences.

Seatbelts save lives.





Speeding

Speed is one of the main causation factors in vehicle collisions and in 2018, 25% of our road fatalities involved excessive speed. This figure includes both incidents where the speed limit was exceeded and incidents where the driver or rider was within the speed limit but travelling too fast for the weather or road conditions.

The physics are simple, the faster you travel, the less time the driver has to react to an emergency or stop and if you crash, the greater the risk of injury or death.

The risk of being involved in a crash resulting in injury in a 60 km/h speed zone doubles with every 5 km/h increase in driving speed above the limit. This means travelling at 65 km/h in a 60 km/h speed zone doubles the chance of having a crash resulting in injury. Travelling at 70 km/h increases the chance of crashing by 4 times and travelling at 80 km/h increases this chance by 32 times.

The NT Police Force utilise both red light and speed cameras in order to improve driver behaviour and enhance road safety.

Speed kills.



Driver Distraction

Distraction is a serious road safety issue and is often the trigger in a potentially fatal chain of events. A distracted driver is not only a risk to themselves, but they also endanger their passengers and other road users.

A driver is distracted when they pay attention to something else while driving. People simply cannot multi-task, especially while driving, which is considered a 'cognitively demanding' task.

It's not only mobile phones that can distract you from the complicated task of driving. Kids in the back seat, activity on the road side, eating, drinking and personal grooming can all distract a driver.

Public understanding of driver distraction is low and many drivers and riders tend to view distraction as a normal part of driving, ignoring possible fatal outcome of their choices. If a driver were travelling at 50km/h and removed their eyes from the road for only two seconds, they would have travelled up to 28m completely blind.

Multi-tasking and driving don't mix!
Keep your eyes on the road!





Education

Road safety education plays an important role in promoting safer driving practices to vulnerable road user groups. With the support of our road safety partners, the NTPF will manage road safety education by equipping individuals with the knowledge and skills to use our roads safely and understand how their actions can affect others.

It is important that our road safety efforts and resources be directed to evidence-based and intelligence-informed initiatives, these include:

- Sharing safety messages through local and national campaigns.
- Providing road safety education in schools in collaboration with our road safety partners.
- Promoting road safety, particularly with vulnerable road user groups.

Creating a culture where road safety is a shared responsibility and an important community value, will contribute to the vision of this Road Safety Strategy.

Road safety is everyone's responsibility.



Performance Indicators

- Continuous improvement, through evidence-based tasking to ensure coordinated Road Policing Initiatives.
- Co-ordinated enforcement in line with the Road Policing Safety Calendar.
- Co-ordination of all Divisional and Regional Road Policing Initiatives.
- Initiatives tied to Territory and National strategies.
- Ensuring an appropriately resourced and skilled Road Policing Command.
- Central tracking of all road safety initiatives through the Road Policing Command.
- New Road Policing Dashboard – Business Intelligence Tool:
 - Creation of road safety priority patrols;
 - Identify top collision locations in each Division.
- Random Breath and Drug Testing deployment.





ROAD SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS



HOW ARE YOU CONTRIBUTING TO REDUCING ROAD RELATED HARM?

Email your road safety suggestions to pfes.marketing@pfes.nt.gov.au