

Joint Media Release

9 November 2023

Unveiling of the Australian Work Zone Memorial to honour Fallen Road Workers

The Traffic Management Association of Australia (TMAA) is unveiling today the Australian Work Zone Memorial to pay tribute to Australian road workers who have lost their lives while carrying out their duties in active worksites.

Inspired by a similar 2002 project launched by the American Traffic Safety Services Foundation in the United States, TMAA's memorial honours the lives lost in work zones and serves as a reminder to policymakers and drivers about the human impact of work zone fatalities.

"While the Memorial contains the names of three traffic controllers today, we know that the list will inevitably get longer. This motivates us at TMAA to do everything we can to improve the safety of our colleagues on the road," said Andrew White, President of TMAA.

"Everyone has a right to get home safe to their loved ones, every day, no exceptions. We all need to make sure that we drive so that others survive. This includes obeying road rules and not speeding in work zones," said Peter Frazer OAM, President of SARAH Group.

By unveiling the memorial as part of the annual Road Worker Day of Remembrance on November 9, TMAA hopes to encourage the industry and our community to consider the human cost of work zone incidents.

"Behind each statistic is a person - someone's family member, friend, or colleague. We know that putting names behind road safety statistics will help us change attitudes toward road workers," added Matthew Bereni, CEO of TMAA.

According to Austroads' data from 2022, there are nationally 18 fatal crashes, 245 serious injury crashes and 530 minor injury crashes at roadside worksites annually. However, TMAA believes this number may be underreported, given inconsistencies in incident data collection.

TMAA invites submissions of names to be included on the memorial, both from Members and Non-Members. TMAA will accept the name of any Australian road worker who has been killed at any time while carrying out their duties in an active worksite.

By centralising a memorial to work zone victims, TMAA hopes to raise awareness about the true human toll of these incidents. The association hopes the memorial will act as a reminder for road users to slow down, pay attention, and drive safely through work zones.

More information about the Australian Work Zone Memorial and how to submit names for inclusion is available on TMAA's website at <https://tmaa.asn.au/work-zone-memorial>.

For more information contact TMAA at tmaa@tmaa.asn.au or on 1300 798 772.