

Media Release

30 August 2023

When will this stop? Traffic Controller dies after being struck while working on Melbourne freeway

A traffic controller has died in Melbourne overnight after he was struck by a car while working on the Eastern Freeway near Hoddle Street in Clifton Hill. Police were called to the scene around 12:15am. It's believed the 58-year-old male traffic controller was working on the freeway when he was hit by a Toyota sedan. He was taken to hospital but later passed away, according to Victoria Police.

Police have arrested a 27-year-old Toyota sedan driver who is believed to be involved. He is currently assisting police with their investigation. As reported by the Age, Detective sergeant Luke Miller told reporters at the scene that early indications suggested speed was a factor in the collision, along with "wet, slippery" road conditions from the rain.

The Traffic Management Association of Australia wishes to convey its heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of the traffic controller who tragically passed away in Melbourne today.

TMAA's Chair for Victoria, Anthony Simmons expressed his anger at this tragic event. *"Our association and our members continually advocate for road safety and yet, earlier today, one of our colleagues was killed while at work. When will this stop?"* he said.

It is understood that Major Collision Investigation Unit detectives are investigating the circumstances surrounding the crash.

"Everyone has a right to make it home safely. Speed is often a factor in accidents involving traffic controllers. I implore drivers to consider whether saving a couple minutes is worth the enormous risk to traffic controllers' lives, or to any road user as a matter of fact," Mr Simmons said.

This accident brings Victoria's road toll to 191. Police urge anyone with information, dashcam footage or who witnessed the collision to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or www.crimestoppersvic.com.au.

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