



Press Release – 9 November 2021

Second hit and run in as many weeks sends shockwaves across industry

As the industry is still in mourning following the tragic death of a traffic controller in Queensland, details are emerging over another hit and run fatality in Melbourne this morning.

The Traffic Management Association of Australia (TMAA) Executive Officer, Louise Van Ristell, said the incident highlighted the gross misconduct of some drivers and the lack of respect for workers on our roads.

“The carnage has to stop,” she said. Our workers are in a high risk industry working at the coal face to protect other workers. Sadly today another worker has lost their life needlessly.”

“The impact will be felt not only in our industry but across numerous families, colleagues, and countless others” she said.

“We need higher penalties for motorists who do the wrong thing; cameras on sites assist, but police presence and severe penalties will go some way to reducing reckless driver behaviour.”

Ms Van Ristell said the TMAA, worked closely with the federal and state governments to bring about change to the risks imposed on traffic controllers and roadworkers each day.

“We are working to get our people and other workers out of the line of fire of such incidents as today, but when it is the reckless actions of a motorist, prevention is more difficult to ascertain.”

“Our Association advocates continually for the safety of our people and the education of motorists around roadwork signage and legislation,” she said.

TMAA Secretary and TMAA VIC Board Member Anthony Simmons said traffic controllers are among those being killed or badly injured across the nation by distracted drivers, and that government needed to work with industry to ensure safe work sites and educate motorists to the dangers and consequences of such incidents and fatalities.

Mr Simmons said, “Today’s fatality is a stark reminder of the need for additional measures to protect our workers,” he said. “It comes as the industry continues to gear up for the plethora of projects and roadworks ahead this year and into the future as part of COVID recovery.”

“We are there for everyone’s safety, so slow down and take care,” he said. “We want everyone to arrive home safely. No exceptions.”

For more information contact Louise Van Ristell at TMAA on 1300 798 772 and Anthony Simmons on 0447 175 986.

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