



Press Release – 20 January 2021

Traffic control tragedy in Western Australia rocks industry

The Traffic Management Association of Australia would like to express our deepest sympathies to the family, friends and colleagues of the roadworker who died after being struck by a car in Ravensthorpe, Western Australia, yesterday.

Traffic Management Association of Australia President Stephen O'Dwyer said the tragedy had rocked the industry both nationally and in Western Australia, where the lives of two other traffic controllers have also been lost in the past two years.

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

"We cannot stress enough the need for diligence and care by motorists when approaching work sites."

"Too often there are workers, particularly our front-line traffic controllers, who are put in harm's way due to errant drivers," he said.

Mr O'Dwyer 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.

"Yesterday's fatality is a stark reminder of the need for additional safety education for motorists," he said. "It comes as the industry gears up for what is to be an exceptionally busy year in both metropolitan and regional areas in Western Australia."

Mr O'Dwyer said regional roads presented an ongoing danger for both drivers and workers.

Mr O'Dwyer said the TMAA strongly supported the Western Australian government's investment in roads and infrastructure, but urged all drivers to take care, so that it didn't mean more risk for workers and roadworkers.

Mr O'Dwyer cautioned the public to drive with care around roadworks and to be vigilant in obeying signage and instructions.

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

For more information contact Stephen O'Dwyer on 0437 978 072 or TMAA on 1300 798 772.