



## Press Release – 26 October 2021

### Traffic controller death sends shockwaves across industry

In a year like no other, there has been an increasing number of traffic controller fatalities across the nation due to dangerous driver behaviour. This morning the industry was rocked when a traffic controller near Mackay was hit and killed in a hit and run incident with a stolen vehicle.

The Traffic Management Association of Australia Executive Officer, Louise Van Ristell, said the incident highlighted the high risk work of traffic controllers everywhere.

“Another family, another group of colleagues and countless others, will be impacted lifelong by this incident,” she said. “Federal, State and Local government continue to work with us to drive the safety at roadworks message, but it is reckless actions that are the most dangerous of all.”

Ms Van Ristell said today’s tragedy had sent shockwaves across an industry still reeling from deaths in Western Australia earlier this year and all those over the years who have perished due to totally preventable incidents.

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

“Too often there are workers, particularly our front-line traffic controllers, who are put in harm’s way due to errant drivers,” she said.

Ms Van Ristell 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.

“Today’s fatality is a stark reminder of the need for additional safety education for motorists,” she said. “It comes as the industry gears up for what is to be an exceptionally busy year in both metropolitan and regional areas across the country.”

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

For more information contact Louise Van Ristell at TMAA on 1300 798 772.

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