

# Travelling on the safest route



## The fastest route isn't always the safest route.

Around 42 per cent of fatalities on country roads are on two-way roads with no centre barrier and a 100km/h speed limit.

Human error is a factor in many crashes and the impact of mistakes can be minimised by driving or riding on major roads that have more safety features. These features such as flexible barriers, wide centre lines and audio-tactile line markings (rumble strips), help reduce the risk and severity of crashes.

Allowing a few extra minutes for your journey may mean you can use a safer route and help ensure you get to your destination safely.



### The facts

- Flexible safety barriers reduce the severity of high-risk crashes by up to 95 per cent.
- Wide centreline is estimated to reduce head-on crashes by 50 per cent and run-off-road crashes by up to 25 per cent.
- Rumble strips (or audio tactile line marking) are estimated to reduce the likelihood of vehicles departing their lane by 15 per cent to 25 per cent.
- Sealed shoulders are estimated to reduce the likelihood of run-off-road crashes between 25 per cent and 40 per cent.

## Safer road treatments

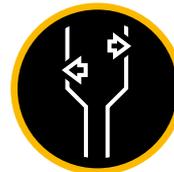
1

Open your phone's camera and scan the QR code to the right or visit [safetyscanner.com.au](https://safetyscanner.com.au)



2

Scan the icons below to experience some of the safety infrastructure found on NSW roads.



Wide centreline



Audio tactile line marking



Flexible safety barrier



Sealed shoulders

## How can I stay safe?

When planning a drive, it is important to consider the type of roads you intend to take.

Motorways and major highways have barriers to prevent cars from running off the road and hitting objects such as trees or colliding head-on with other vehicles. These safety features are usually not present on local roads.

Remember:

- Use an online mapping provider to preview the route you intend to take. Familiarise yourself with the route before you start driving.
- Use motorways and major highways wherever possible as these roads have more safety features, and limit travel on local roads.
- Allow plenty of travel time, accounting for current weather and traffic conditions, and including time for rest breaks.
- Plan when and where you can stop for fuel. In remote areas there are limited fuel stations.
- Ensure you have your mobile phone in case of emergency. If you're travelling in regional or remote areas where there can be large areas with no mobile phone reception, consider carrying another type of communication device such as a satellite phone, SPOT tracker or EPIRB.

- Inform your family, friends, or (if driving for work) manager or colleague of the route you are taking and estimated arrival time at your destination.
- Contact your family, friends, or (if driving for work) manager or colleague when you arrive at your destination to let them know that you have arrived safely.
- Never solely rely on a navigation device as the maps may be out of date. In regional areas it is also important to not rely on navigation apps on your phone in case there are issues with mobile phone coverage.



## More information

Visit the Towards Zero website ([towardszero.nsw.gov.au/safesystem/safe-roads](https://towardszero.nsw.gov.au/safesystem/safe-roads)) for more information on safer roads and to view upcoming road safety projects in your area.

Visit Live Traffic NSW ([livetraffic.com](https://livetraffic.com)) for information on planning your route, including planned roadworks, current traffic conditions and rest stop locations.

If you're driving for work, visit the Towards Zero website ([towardszero.nsw.gov.au/workplace](https://towardszero.nsw.gov.au/workplace)) to complete the Road safety: Everybody's business online learning course to learn about road safety risk and how you can stay safe on NSW roads.

