

2026 Road Safety Action Plan

Coffs Harbour community forum



Thank you for attending the 2026 Road Safety Action Plan community forum in Coffs Harbour. There were a lot of interesting discussions during the session, which are summarised below as well as the results of the in-person polls.

We are in the process of drafting the 2026 Road Safety Action Plan, which will be available at the end of the year. We look forward to sharing it with you.

Transport for NSW is eager to continue these road safety conversations, stay up to date on campaigns at towardszero.nsw.gov.au or follow us on [social media](#).

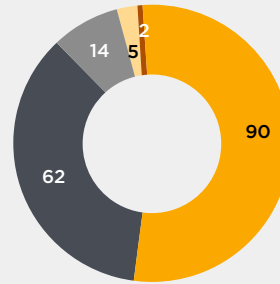
Stay safe and drive responsibly – let's make sure everyone arrives home safely.

Bernard Carlon
Executive Director
Centres for Road Safety and Maritime Safety

Participant Feedback

What are the priority areas for road safety in the Coffs Harbour community?

Number of mentions



Area of investigation

- Reducing unsafe road user behaviours
- Creating safer country and outer urban roads
- Increasing the safety of vehicles and protective equipment
- Pedestrians, cyclists and 'at risk' road users
- Creating safer urban spaces

Below is a summary of the suggestions and feedback we received during the Coffs Harbour consultation.

1. Creating safer urban spaces

- A few participants mentioned they see minimal police presence on Coffs Harbour roads and that an increased presence and staffing would be welcome and an effective deterrent to bad driving, thus creating safer places.
- It was suggested to improve Coffs Harbour's public transport network. It was explained that currently, the network is sparse, with few trips offered in a day with complicated connections making for long commutes.
- Multiple people noted there are many streets without a designated footpath for pedestrians, which is a huge issue for disabled people, or seniors who would require a footpath for stability or to be able to drive a motorised scooter.

2. Creating safer country and outer urban roads

- Suggestions were made to increase understanding of Australian road conditions for international travellers – specifically education campaigns around native fauna like kangaroos.
- There were concerns around licensing to drive caravans – while some are the same length and weight as trucks there is a lack of requirements to drive these vehicles.
- Education campaigns around the impacts of taking driving risks (such as overtaking on single lane roads) would be beneficial as well.

3. Increasing the safety of vehicles and protective equipment

- A suggestion was made around a discount at registration time for drivers who have all their points on their licence. This would incentivise drivers and allow them to reinvest their money into a potentially safer second vehicle.
- There was a sense that drivers are over-reliant on vehicle safety technology, which results in unsafe driver behaviour.
- It should be illegal for heavy vehicles to signal a car behind them to overtake without the car having any visibility and just relying on the blinker of the truck driver.

4. Pedestrians, cyclists and 'at risk' road users

- Basic training in maintenance and care of bicycles, responsible driving tips and operation (cornering, stay upright) should occur at point of sale for all bicycle riders.
- When designing pedestrian pathways, thought needs to be given to lighting as well as pavement treatment. On existing infrastructure, improved lighting in high pedestrian trafficked areas is necessary.
- Lights should be a mandatory inclusion on all bicycles.
- Consideration of all young children under the age of 10 to be eligible for a concession buss pass; this will reduce the safety risks they are exposed on their way to school.

5. Reducing unsafe road user behaviours

- Mandate defensive driving course and driver simulators for all new drivers, regardless of age.
- Police could have discretion to pull people over as a teaching moment to explain why their decision wasn't the safest option; no fines or loss of points, just real time teaching moments.
- Road safety early education should be short and easy to understand, as kids at that age have multiple things going on and high stress levels.



"The target of zero is hard to achieve while cars have such a high place in the transport hierarchy."

Poll Results

This information was collected from forum attendees who participated in the polls at the Coffs Harbour community forum held in April 2021.

Were the trends and statistics presented a surprise to you?

No 78%

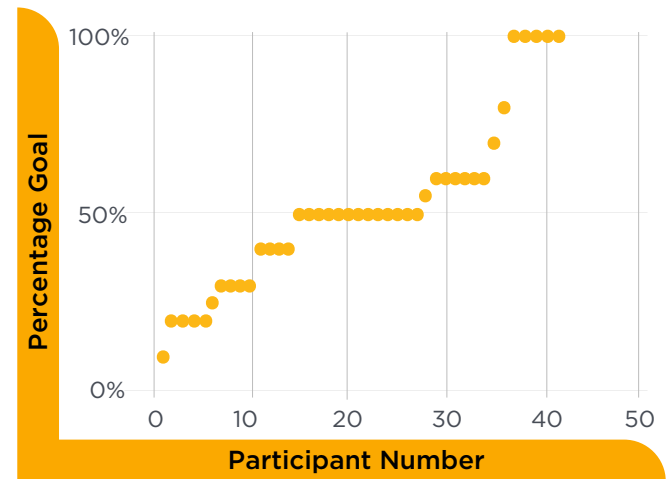
Yes 22%

Do you think we are on the right path to meet our targets of zero deaths and serious injuries on NSW roads by 2056?

No 64%

Yes 36%

What should our goal for 2030 be?



"We are protecting their feelings! Fear can be a good thing to change behaviour, use it!"