

SIDE ROAD ACTIVATED SPEEDS

As part of Towards Zero, the Victorian Government is investing over \$25 million to make high-risk, high-speed rural intersections safer.

Towards Zero is a plan to ensure no one is seriously injured or killed on our roads. The Victorian Government is investing \$1.4 billion to achieve fewer than 200 deaths by 2020 and reduce serious injuries by 15% on Victoria's roads.

What we're doing

One of the ways we're making high-speed rural intersections safer, is by installing side road activated speeds at up to 30 locations across the state.

How side road activated speeds work

When a vehicle on a side road approaches a main road with a 100km/h speed limit, it will trigger an electronic speed sign on the main road to reduce the speed limit to 70 km/h. This alerts drivers on the main road to slow down for the vehicles approaching from the side road. The reduced speed limit will stay activated until there are no more vehicles on the side road waiting to enter or cross the main road.

On main roads with dedicated right-hand turning lanes, the electronic

speed limit sign will also be activated by vehicles waiting to turn right from the main road into the side road.

These signs are activated by sensors under the road that detect the presence of vehicles approaching the intersection.

We'll also install fixed signs, to alert drivers of upcoming intersections and potential changes to the speed limit.

Why we're doing this

In the past five years, 70% of fatal intersection crashes in regional Victoria happened on high speed roads.

Intersections in regional areas have a greater risk due to higher travel speeds, particularly where small side roads meet main roads.

Side road activated speeds will increase safety at some of Victoria's highest risk intersections by:

- giving drivers on side roads more time to assess gaps in traffic and enter the main road safely
- letting drivers know they're approaching an intersection, which will prepare them for any merging traffic
- significantly reducing the severity of crashes due to the reduced speed limit when traffic is merging from side roads.

A similar program in New Zealand has reduced serious and fatal crashes at intersections by 89% since 2012.

More information

To find out more about side road activated speeds, email: safetravel@roads.vic.gov.au

