



Rising Victorian road toll to be investigated

The increase in Victoria's road toll in 2019 has led to a parliamentary inquiry, which is inviting community input to help find solutions.

In a broad-ranging review, the Legislative Council's Economy and Infrastructure Committee will examine how Victoria's Towards Zero 2016-2020 Road Safety Strategy plans to reduce fatalities.

"Our road toll has risen this year, with more than 240 lives lost. As a community we need to work together to look at why this is happening and what can be done to turn this trend around," Committee Chair Nazih Elasmr said.

"Fatalities on our roads affect communities and families across Victoria, so the Committee hopes that people throughout our state will contribute their views and suggestions to our inquiry," Mr Elasmr said.

Among the issues being considered are the adequacy and scope of drug and alcohol testing, as well as current speed enforcement measures and speed management policies.

"Distractions while driving, such as smart phone use, are a factor in road accidents, so we want to explore what can be done, including through technology, to address this problem," Mr Elasmr said.

Other issues being examined include measures to improve the affordability of new vehicles with driver assist technology, and the adequacy of driver training programs. The Committee will also look at current road standards and road maintenance.

"There is no single solution to dealing with Victoria's road toll. That's why we need to consider a wide range of issues and options as part of this inquiry," Mr Elasmr said.

"We will be examining in particular the different circumstances and different responses required in metropolitan and regional areas."

Public submissions to the inquiry are welcome until 20 December 2019, with public hearings to be held in 2020.

The inquiry's terms of reference and details on how to make a submission are available from the Committee's [website](#).

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