

16 August 2021

## The State's worst electorates for road deaths

RACQ has revealed Queensland's most dangerous electorates for road deaths, as the State tragically recorded more than 172 fatalities so far this year.

As part of the Club's month-long road safety campaign, the electorate of Callide, was named as the worst location for fatalities in the State between January and July this year, with 11 deaths recorded.

Nanango had the second highest number of road deaths at 10 lives lost, followed by Burnett with nine.

RACQ spokesperson Lauren Ritchie said the unnecessary loss of life needed to stop.

"These horrific statistics reinforce the sobering fact Queenslanders are being killed at an alarmingly high rate," Ms Ritchie said.

"Eighteen of the 20 electorates with the highest number of road fatalities are in regional areas.

"Regional roads are often over-represented in fatalities, with crashes more likely to happen at higher speeds."

Ms Ritchie said the solution to improving Queensland's horrific road toll was to ensure we had safer drivers on safer roads.

"We're pleading with drivers to not get complacent and to take road safety into their own hands, as we know quieter regional roads can be deadly," she said.

"Disobeying simple road rules like speeding, not wearing a seatbelt, being distracted or drink or drug driving dramatically increases your risk of a crash.

"We also need to leaders to focus investment on regional road funding. The major roads in these regions are high speed, have single lanes in each direction, are undivided and typically have narrow shoulders with hazardous roadsides, making them more unforgiving in the event of a crash.

"The Bruce Highway Upgrade Program, due to be delivered over the next 15 years, as well as low cost, high impact safety works packages on other roads under Federal and State Road Safety Programs, need to be accelerated.

"We need our leaders to deliver simple safety upgrades such as lane and shoulder widening, safety barriers, roadside hazard removal, overtaking lanes and rumble strips."

RACQ is Queensland's largest club and peak independent motoring organisation. We were formed in 1905 to represent the interests of the State's first motorists and today campaign for safer drivers, vehicles and roads on behalf of more than 1.7 million members who own the Club. We offer those members a vast range of motoring, insurance, banking, entertainment and travel services and benefits, and each year respond to more than a million calls for roadside assistance.

## Highest rates of road fatalities by State electorate:

| State electorate | January - July 2021 deaths | Remoteness | Incumbent Party | Local Member     |
|------------------|----------------------------|------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Callide          | 11                         | Regional   | LNP             | Colin Boyce      |
| Nanango          | 10                         | Regional   | LNP             | Deb Frecklington |
| Burnett          | 9                          | Regional   | LNP             | Stephen Bennett  |
| Gympie           | 8                          | Regional   | LNP             | Tony Perrett     |
| Traeger          | 8                          | Regional   | KAP             | Robbie Katter    |
| Burdekin         | 8                          | Regional   | LNP             | Dale Last        |
| Glass House      | 8                          | Regional   | LNP             | Andrew Powell    |
| Hill             | 6                          | Regional   | KAP             | Shane Knuth      |
| Southern Downs   | 5                          | Regional   | LNP             | James Lister     |
| Warrego          | 5                          | Regional   | LNP             | Ann Leahy        |
| Condamine        | 5                          | Regional   | LNP             | Pat Weir         |

\* Some deaths are unable to be allocated to an electorate due to insufficient data.

**Media inquiries: RACQ spokesperson Lauren Ritchie 0427 137 022; Principal Media Advisor Clare Hunter 0417 343 969.**

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