



## FACTSHEET 17

## SAFE VEHICLES FLEET PURCHASING POLICIES

In 2017 the Australian Federal Government adopted a 5-star fleet purchasing strategy with Australian jurisdictions also committing to safe vehicles purchasing policies. Vehicle are recognised as being part of a workplace and organisations have a responsibility to provide vehicles that are fit for purpose and safe. Safe fleet purchasing policies, whether it be mandating ANCAP rated 5-star vehicles or the inclusion of specific active or passive safety technologies, are expected to lead to a faster uptake of safe vehicles in the private sector through the eventual on-sale of these corporate vehicles. This is particularly beneficial for regional and remote areas where the vehicle fleet is typically older.

## Implementation considerations

Organisations who operate vehicles that travel long distances should include vehicle safety features such as fatigue monitoring and electronic stability control. Some safety features such as fatigue monitoring systems are not available for all vehicles and are optional for others.

Some safety features are optional thus may increase the purchase price of the vehicle. Training of staff in the use of vehicle safety features should be included as part of workplace safety training.

## Effectiveness

Older vehicles, those built in 2000 or earlier, account for just 20% of the registered vehicle fleet but are involved in 33% of fatality crashes. Newer vehicles, those built 2011-2016, make up 31% of the fleet yet are involved in just 13% of fatality crashes<sup>1</sup>.

The most effective means of accelerating the uptake of vehicle safety technologies into a vehicle fleet is by reducing the average age of the vehicle fleet<sup>2,3</sup>.

If all new vehicles purchased were equivalent in safety to the safest available at the time within the type chosen, reductions in fatal and serious injuries of 33% could be achieved<sup>4</sup>.

## Target road user groups

Vehicle drivers, vehicle passengers

## Target behaviour

Vehicle fleet purchasing

<sup>1</sup> ANCAP, 2017, New analysis: fatality rates four times higher in an older vehicle. Retrieved from <https://www.ancap.com.au/media-and-gallery/releases/new-analysis-fatality-rate-four-times-higher-in-an-older-vehicle-0e2f9e>

<sup>2</sup> Peiris, S., Berecki-Gisolf, J., Chen, B. and Fildes, B. 2020, Road trauma in regional and remote Australia and New Zealand in preparedness for ADAS technologies and autonomous vehicles. Sustainability (Basel, Switzerland), 12(11), 4347, <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12114347>.

<sup>3</sup> Potterton, P. Ockwell, A. Cross, J. Newstead, S. and Pekol, A., 2017, Benefits of reducing the age of the Australian light vehicle fleet: Report for the Australian Automobile Association; Australian Automobile Association: Hall, Australia.

<sup>4</sup> Budd, L. and Newstead, S., 2019, Potential road safety benefits of making safe vehicle choices in Australia, Clayton, Vic: Monash University Accident Research Centre.



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