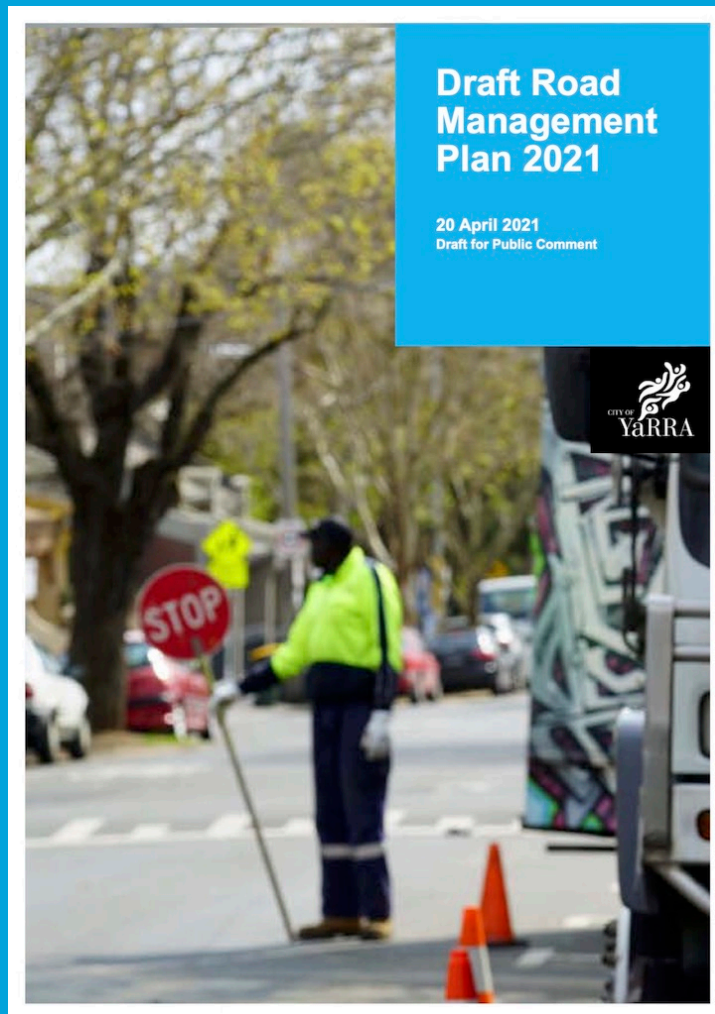


RESPONSE TO DRAFT ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN 2021



Prepared by: Streets Alive Yarra Inc.
streets-alive-yarra.org

Foreword

Streets Alive Yarra is a non-profit, volunteer, resident and ratepayer action group with a [vision](#) for more trees, wider footpaths and vibrant businesses in thriving [neighbourhoods](#). We see our streets being used by people from [all ages](#), irrespective of whether they walk, roll on a wheelchair, cycle, use public transport or drive. Residents and shoppers should be able to move safely, comfortably, and conveniently around Yarra; and park near shops.



Image credit: OCULUS Landscape Architecture and Urban Design

Streets Alive Yarra was founded in 2017 and now has over 2,600 likes on Facebook. A network of local champions develops concepts and proposals for how to improve their local street or precinct. Streets Alive Yarra is also Yarra's Walkability Action Group (WAG) representative for Victoria Walks.

Further information is available at: streets-alive-yarra.org/about.

Feedback

The draft Road Management Plan 2021 appears to be a good response to the need to comply with the Road Management Act, Road Management Regulations and the Code of Practice for Road Management Plans.

Unfortunately, the draft misses the opportunity to deliver best practice, i.e. more than the minimum requirements. The draft delivers a best practice definition of the term “hazard”, but then fails to describe a process for identifying all relevant hazards.

“Hazard”

is an event, defect, condition or substance, which has the potential to cause harm to property or the health and safety of persons in their use of road infrastructure.

Definition of “hazard” from the draft

The draft states that the number (1) objective is to “ensure public safety”; but fails to describe a process to deliver this.

4. Performance Standards

4.1. Objectives

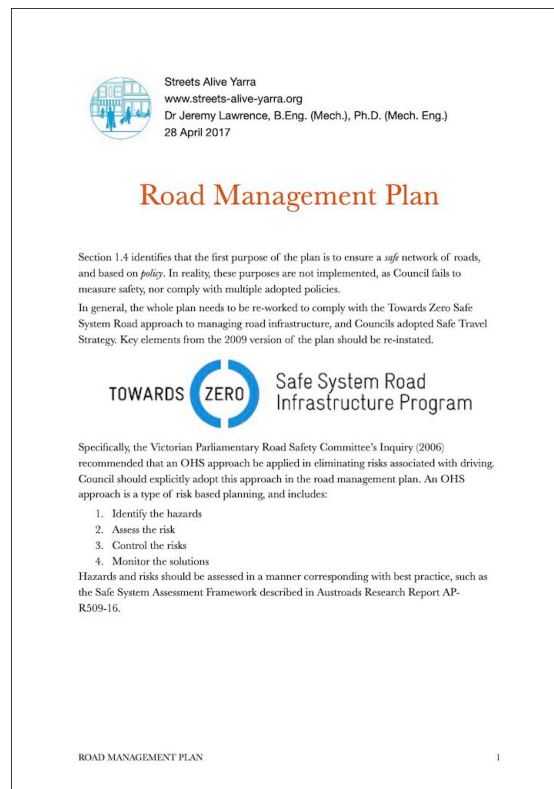
The objectives of setting performance standards are:

- (1) Ensure public safety.
- (2) Protect road infrastructure assets.
- (3) Ensure an appropriate level of protection against civil liability claims based on available Council resources.

The #1 performance standard is to ensure public safety

The primary failure of the draft is that it assumes the design drawing for a road is “safe” and thus only proposes to detect defects that represent a difference between the design drawing and reality. What the draft should do is identify problems with the design of the road. In our opinion, a road that is poorly designed is a “defect” or a “condition” that is an assessable “hazard”.

These points were also made in our 2017 submission to the road management plan, available for download at: <https://streets-alive-yarra.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Road-Management-Plan.pdf>



2017 submission to the road management plan

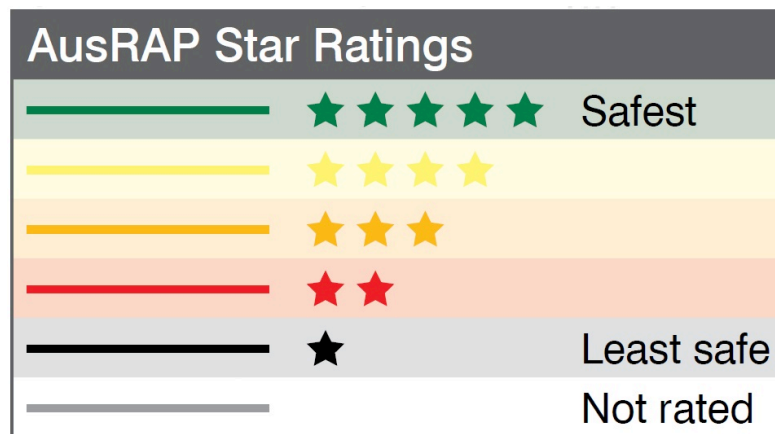
A best practice solution to “ensure public safety” would involve:

- Identify the hazards
- Quantify the risks
- Mitigate the risks
- Monitor the solutions

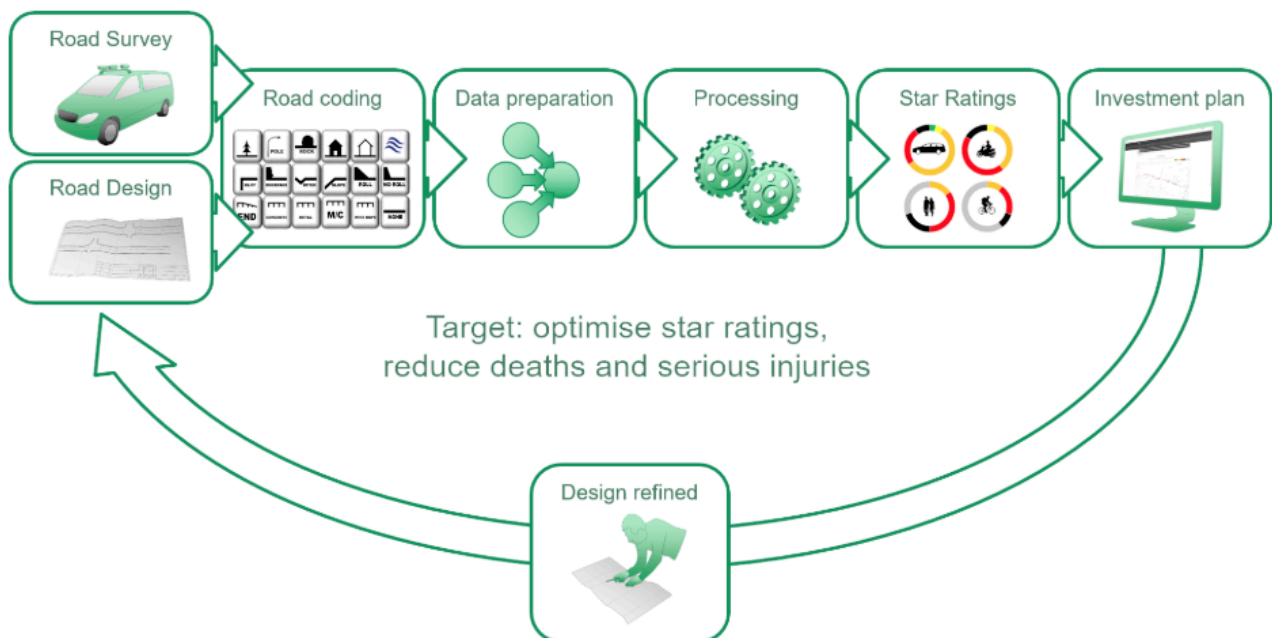
These concepts are also described on a page on our website: <https://streets-alive-yarra.org/safety/>. A best practice process would be to give a star rating to each road, then work to improve star ratings.

We need to create a genuinely safe system approach, in which improving the safety of drivers, vehicles and roads is of mutual importance. A safe system where we have five star drivers, in five star cars on five star roads should involve no deaths.

Image credit: RACV



Star ratings. Image credit: AusRAP.



Process to ensure public safety. Image credit: iRAP.

Indeed, Yarra's adopted Safe Travel Strategy 2016-2026 identifies the benefit of road safety star ratings. The Road Management Plan should align with this.

Concluding remarks

The City of Yarra does not have to accept “compliant with the Act” as “good enough”. It is possible for council to aim higher, to adopt best practice, to align with other adopted policies, and to embed a process to ensure public safety.

Streets Alive Yarra would be delighted to provide further detail or explanation of the themes raised in this document.

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