

ROAD SAFETY IN THE LIMESTONE COAST REGION

A report of road crashes in the Limestone Coast Region 2015-2019

Road Trauma in South Australia

The annual number of lives lost on road and serious injuries is traditionally used as an indicator of road safety in South Australia. The South Australian Road Safety Strategy 2020 – *Towards Zero Together* has a target to reduce lives lost and serious injuries by at least 30% by 2020.

There were 114 lives lost recorded on South Australian roads in 2019. This is 34 more than the 80 lives lost recorded in 2018 and is 19 more than the previous 5 year average (2014 – 2018) of 95 lives lost.

Serious injuries have increased from 576 in 2018 to 833 in 2019, the highest recorded total of serious injuries in a given year. The number is also 24% higher than the previous 5 year average (2014 – 2018) of 672 serious injuries per year.

Road Trauma in the Limestone Coast Region

During 2015-2019, each year on average 8 people are killed and 41 are seriously injured on roads in the Limestone Coast region. Residents of the region represent 4% of the total population of South Australia and account for 9% of fatalities in South Australia and 6% of all serious injuries.

Table 1 shows the number and percentage of casualty crashes in 2015-2019 by district council. There was a total of 719 casualty crashes recorded in the Limestone Coast region in the 5 years 2015 – 2019.

As expected due to population in the area, Mount Gambier has the highest number of crashes recorded in the Limestone Coast region. This is not the case for more serious crashes though. Wattle Range and Naracoorte Lucindale saw the most serious injury and fatal crashes in the last 5 years in 2015-2019.

Table 1 –Casualty crashes, Limestone Coast Councils, South Australia, 2015-2019

LGA	Fatal crashes (%) ¹	Serious crashes (%) ¹	Minor crashes (%) ¹	Total
Naracoorte Lucindale (DC)	10 (24%)	23 (12%)	64 (13%)	97 (13%)
Kingston (DC)	5 (12%)	10 (5%)	19 (4%)	34 (5%)
Robe (DC)	1 (2%)	9 (5%)	20 (4%)	30 (4%)
Tatiara (DC)	9 (22%)	39 (21%)	67 (14%)	115 (16%)
Mount Gambier (C)	2 (5%)	27 (14%)	149 (31%)	178 (25%)
Wattle Range (DC)	9 (22%)	46 (24%)	82 (17%)	137 (19%)
Grant (DC)	5 (12%)	36 (19%)	87 (18%)	128 (18%)
TOTAL	41	190	488	719

¹ Percentages are rounded and made up to a total of 100%

Figure 1 and Table 2 shows the contribution of each council to the overall number of casualty crashes by year in the Limestone Coast Region for the last 5 years.

Figure 1 – Number of casualty crashes, 2015-2019

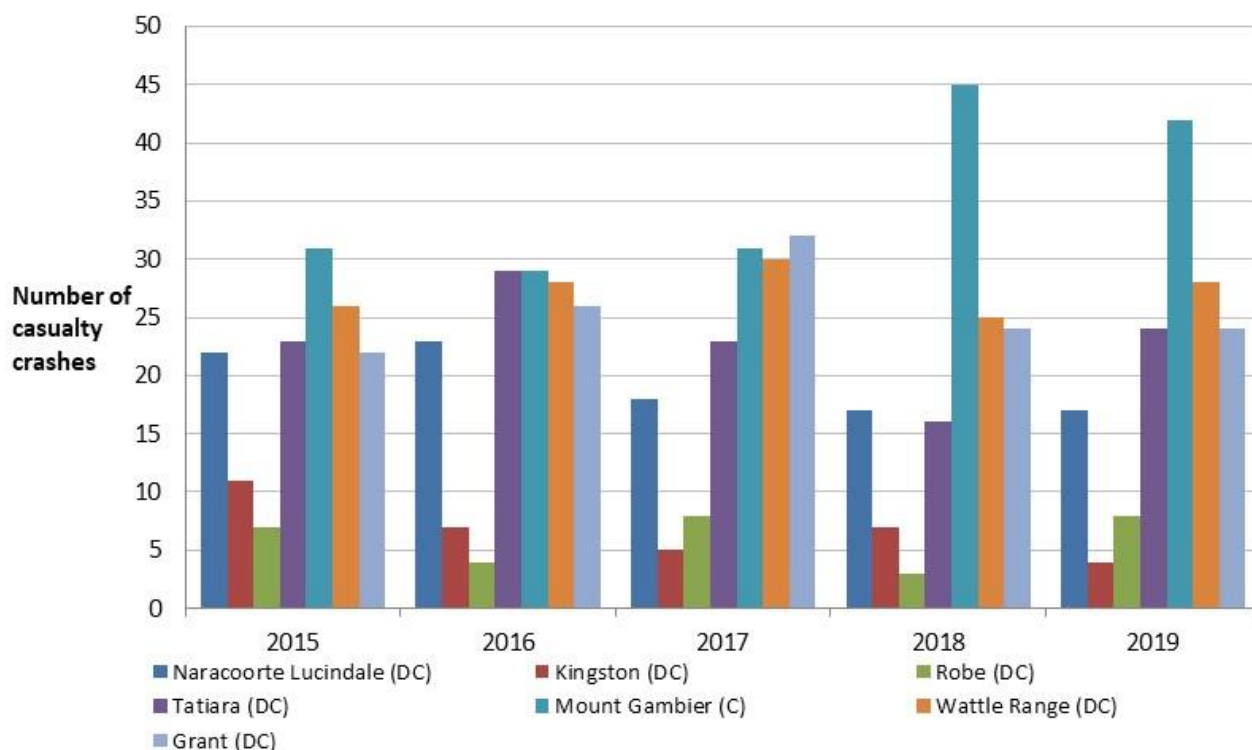


Table 2 – Number of casualty crashes, 2015-2019

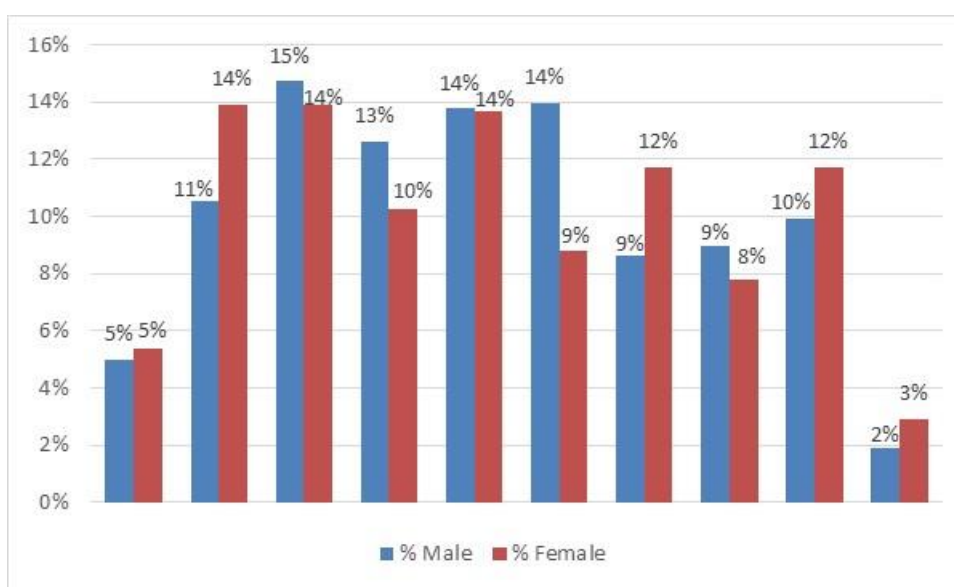
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Naracoorte Lucindale (DC)	22	23	18	17	17	97 (13%)
Kingston (DC)	11	7	5	7	4	34 (5%)
Robe (DC)	7	4	8	3	8	30 (4%)
Tatiara (DC)	23	29	23	16	24	115 (16%)
Mount Gambier (C)	31	29	31	45	42	178 (25%)
Wattle Range (DC)	26	28	30	25	28	137 (19%)
Grant (DC)	22	26	32	24	24	128 (18%)
TOTAL	142	146	147	137	147	719

Table 3 shows the contribution of each council to the overall number of casualties as opposed to crashes in the Limestone Coast Region. There were 938 casualties as a result of the 719 casualty crashes in the Limestone Coast region.

Table 3 - Number of casualties (fatalities, serious and minor injuries), 2015-2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Naracoorte Lucindale (DC)	22	35	25	19	20	121 (13%)
Kingston (DC)	13	8	8	7	5	41 (4%)
Robe (DC)	12	5	11	3	11	42 (4%)
Tatiara (DC)	29	40	31	22	34	156 (17%)
Mount Gambier (C)	39	34	38	55	53	219 (23%)
Wattle Range (DC)	33	43	42	31	32	181 (19%)
Grant (DC)	25	39	43	38	33	178 (19%)
TOTAL	173	204	198	175	188	938

Figure 2 – Percentage of casualties by age and gender, 2015-2019



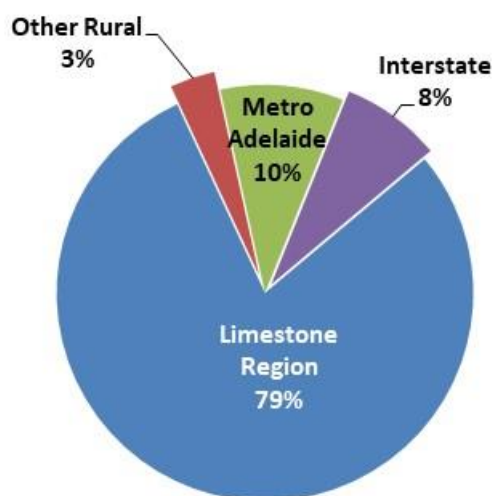
- There were a total of 938 casualties for the 5 year period 2015-2019.
- 56% were male and 44% were female.
- Casualty numbers were high in the younger age groups, 16-24 year olds representing the highest numbers.
- 26% of road user casualties in this region are 16-24 year olds.
- People aged 16 to 24 year old in this region make up 12% of the population, but accounted for 33% of all fatalities and 21% of all serious injuries for the years 2015-2019.

Table 4 – Casualties by age and type of casualty, 2015-2019

	0-15	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70+	Unknown	Total
Driver	0	71	90	77	86	75	59	51	70	7	586
Passenger	37	34	29	17	25	11	14	6	20	16	209
Motor cyclist (including pillion)	1	5	10	10	10	17	8	14	2	2	79
Cyclist	6	0	1	1	2	4	4	4	1	0	23
Pedestrian	6	2	4	3	5	2	7	4	7	1	41
Total	50	112	134	108	128	109	92	79	100	26	938

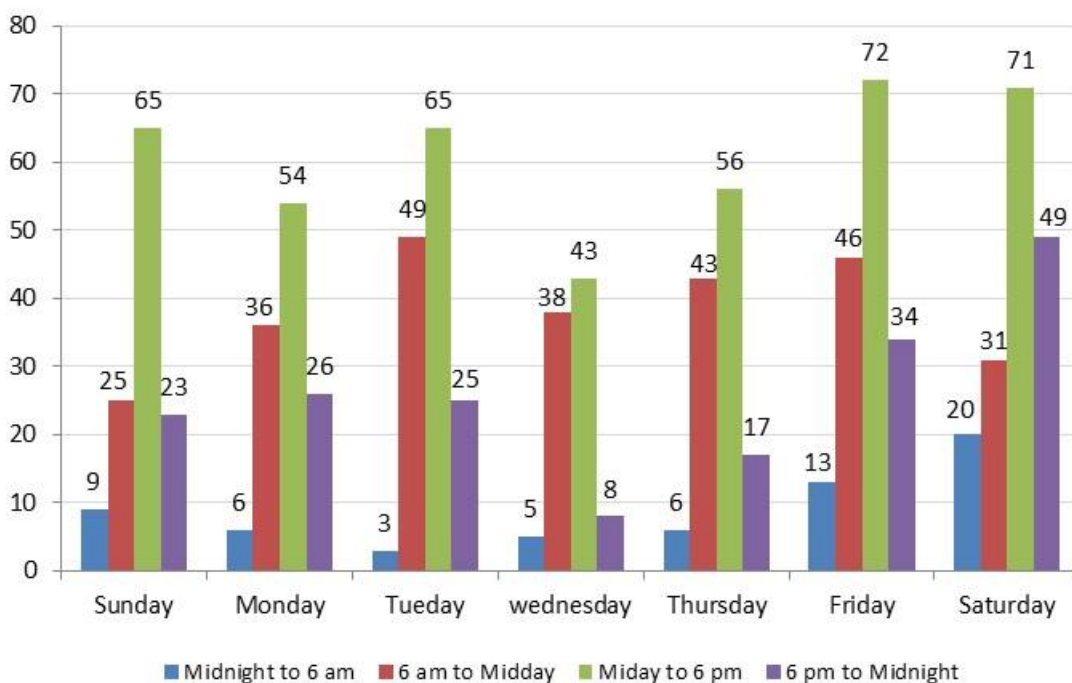
- Like most areas, drivers and passengers (vehicle occupants) make up the majority of road user casualties in the Limestone Coast region.
- 25 (4%) of the vehicle occupant casualties were not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash.

Figure 3 – Residence of driver and rider casualties, 2015-2019



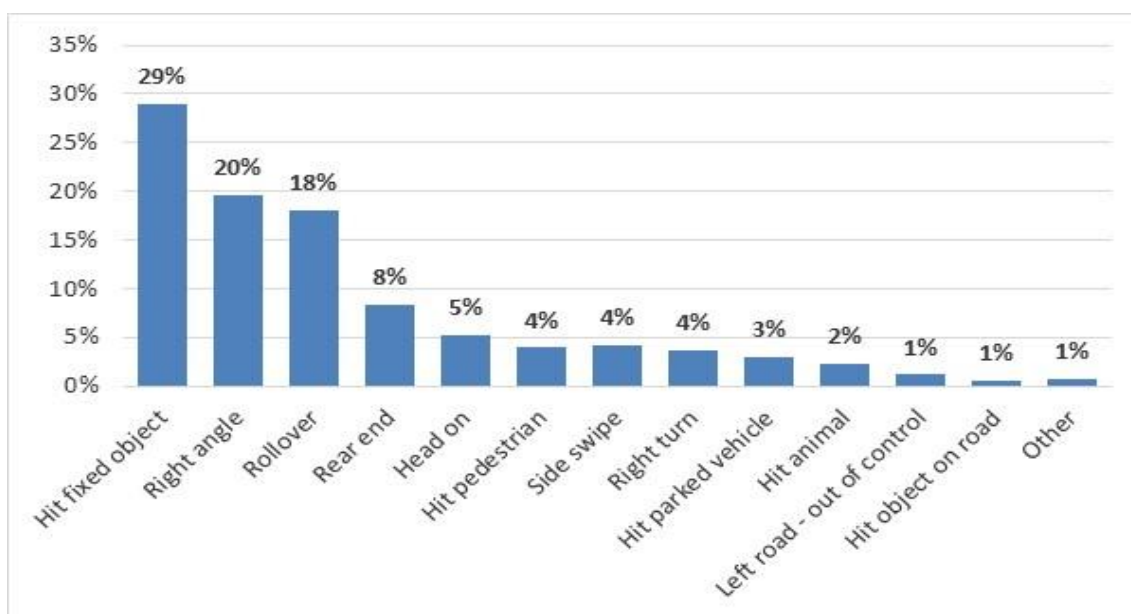
- 79% of driver and rider casualties that occur in the Limestone Coast region are residents of the region.
- 2% are from other rural areas in South Australia.
- 11% are residents in the Adelaide Metropolitan area.
- 8% are from interstate.

Figure 4 – Casualty crashes by time of day/day of week, 2015-2019



- While crashes can occur at any time, the most common time for a casualty crash to occur in the Limestone Coast Region is midday to 6 pm.

Figure 5 – Casualty crashes by crash type, 2015-2019



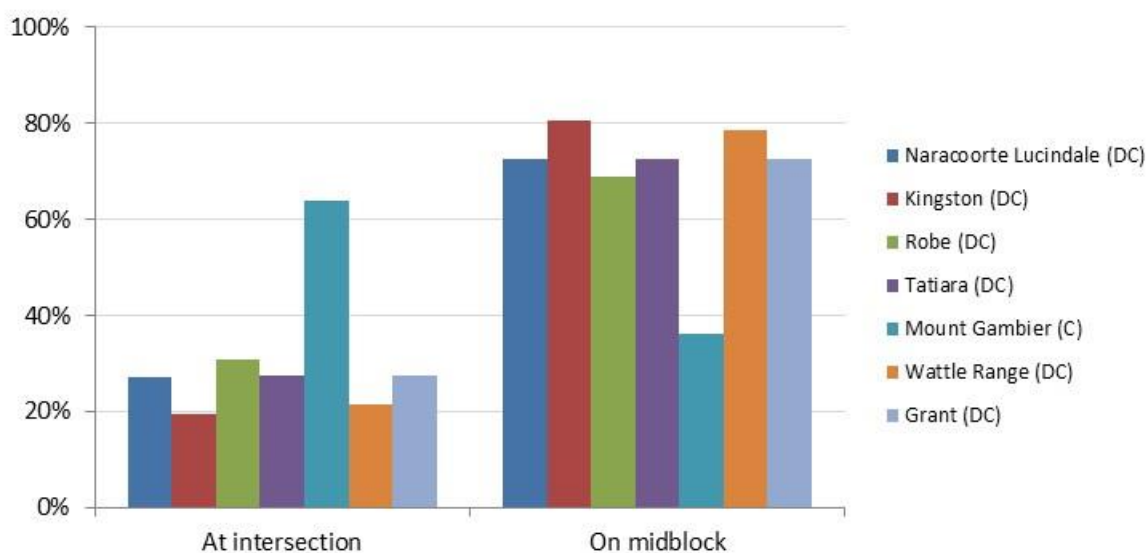
- The majority of casualty crashes are the result of a vehicle hitting a fixed object or a right angle crash or a roll over crash.

Figure 6 – Casualty crashes by speed limit of road, 2015-2019



- 58% of all casualty crashes in the Limestone Coast region occur on roads with $\geq 100\text{km/h}$ speed limit.
- 56% of all fatal crashes occurred on roads posted at 110 km/h.

Figure 7 – Where the casualty crashes occurred within the councils of the Limestone Coast Region, 2015-2019



- 35% of all casualty crashes in the Limestone Coast region occur at intersections, while the remaining 65% occur at ‘midblock’ sections where there are no intersecting roads.
- The highest percentage of crashes occurring at ‘midblock’ sections were 80% occurring in Kingston, followed by 78% in Wattle Range and 72% in Tatiara. The highest percentage of crashes occurring at intersections is in Mount Gambier (64%).

Definitions for crash and casualty types:

Casualty Crash - A crash where at least one fatality, serious injury or minor injury occurs.

Casualty – A fatality, serious injury or minor injury.

Fatal Crash - A crash for which there is at least one fatality.

Fatality - A person who dies within 30 days of a crash as a result of injuries sustained in that crash.

Serious Injury Crash - A non-fatal crash in which at least one person is seriously injured.

Serious Injury - A person who sustains injuries and is admitted to hospital for a duration of at least 24 hours as a result of a road crash and who does not die as a result of those injuries within 30 days of the crash.

Minor Injury Crash - A crash for at least one person sustains injury but no person is admitted to hospital or dies within 30 days of the crash.

Minor Injury – A person who sustains injuries requiring medical treatment, either by a doctor or in a hospital, as a result of a road crash and who does not die as a result of those injuries with 30 days of the crash.