

# *briefing notes - road safety issues*

## *Clutha District*

Land Transport New Zealand has prepared this road safety issues report. It is based on reported crash data and trends for the 2003–2007 period.

The intent of the report is to highlight the key road safety issues and be a resource to help identify possible ways to reduce the number of road deaths and injuries in Clutha District.

This report is the ninth road safety report for Clutha District. All the material unless otherwise stated in this report applies to both local roads and to Transit New Zealand (Transit NZ) roads.

In each new report one year's data is added to a five year block and the oldest dropped so it is unlikely that the core issues would change radically from report to report.

The issues chosen for this report are drawn from either the most common crash types, those that appear over-represented when Clutha District is compared to similar local bodies or those with high social cost (high numbers of fatal and serious crashes mainly). We have included a brief overview of crashes in the district.

We encourage local bodies to use the free access to the Ministry of Transport's Crash Analysis System to delve deeper into the highlighted issues.

### Major road safety issues

#### Clutha District

Loss of Control

### 2007 road trauma

#### Casualties

#### Clutha District

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Deaths             | 5   |
| Serious casualties | 32  |
| Minor casualties   | 136 |

#### Nationally

Speed  
 Alcohol  
 Failure to give way  
 Restraints

#### Crashes

#### District

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Fatal crashes          | 4   |
| Serious injury crashes | 25  |
| Minor injury crashes   | 76  |
| Non-injury crashes     | 117 |

## Overview

In 2007 on local roads in Clutha District there were 43 injury crashes and 67 non-injury crashes. In addition there were 62 injury crashes and 51 non-injury crashes on Transit New Zealand (Transit NZ) roads, both as reported by the New Zealand Police.

The table below shows the number of injuries resulting from the 105 injury crashes, by rural or urban areas for all roads, (rural is defined as an area with a speed limit of 80km/h or more).

| Casualties by environment 2007 |            |                  |                |       |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------------|----------------|-------|
|                                | Fatalities | Serious injuries | Minor injuries | Total |
| Rural                          | 5          | 28               | 120            | 153   |
| Urban                          | 0          | 4                | 16             | 20    |
| Total                          | 5          | 32               | 136            | 173   |

The annual numbers of fatal and serious injury crashes have fluctuated over the last ten years. The highest number was 36 in 2002 and 2003. In 2007 there were 29 fatal and serious crashes. The annual numbers of minor and non-injury crashes have generally increased from 127 in 1998 to 194 in 2007.

| Crash trends |               |                        |                      |                    |
|--------------|---------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Year         | Fatal crashes | Serious injury crashes | Minor injury crashes | Non-injury crashes |
| 1998         | 2             | 13                     | 34                   | 93                 |
| 1999         | 3             | 5                      | 25                   | 117                |
| 2000         | 5             | 19                     | 27                   | 141                |
| 2001         | 5             | 30                     | 74                   | 85                 |
| 2002         | 2             | 34                     | 95                   | 85                 |
| 2003         | 2             | 34                     | 72                   | 89                 |
| 2004         | 3             | 20                     | 77                   | 79                 |
| 2005         | 2             | 29                     | 83                   | 91                 |
| 2006         | 3             | 29                     | 88                   | 100                |
| 2007         | 4             | 25                     | 76                   | 118                |

## Injury crashes 2003 - 2007

| Crash type or contributory cause 2003 to 2007 | Local Road                | Transit Road              |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
|   | Percent of injury crashes | Percent of injury crashes |
| Alcohol                                       | 13%                       | 7%                        |
| Too fast                                      | 24%                       | 19%                       |
| Straight—lost control crash                   | 21%                       | 22%                       |
| Bend—lost control crash                       | 54%                       | 53%                       |
| Crossing / turning crash                      | 12%                       | 5%                        |
| Road factors                                  | 28%                       | 38%                       |
| Vulnerable road users (Percent of casualties) | 7%                        | 5%                        |
| 1, Pedestrians                                | 1%                        | 1%                        |
| 2, Cyclists                                   | 1%                        | 1%                        |
| 3, Motorcyclists                              | 5%                        | 2%                        |

Further information about 2003 to 2007 injury and non-injury crashes on local roads:

- Worst month April, December
- Worst day Saturday
- 28 percent on wet roads
- 32 percent at night
- 18 percent at intersections
- Social cost of crashes in 2007 was \$14.8m

Further information about 2003 to 2007 injury and non-injury crashes on Transit NZ roads

- Worst month June
- Worst day Friday
- 46 percent on wet roads
- 37 percent at night
- 12 percent at intersections
- Social cost of crashes in 2007 was \$25.8m

## Loss of Control

Between 2003 and 2007 70 percent of all crashes in Clutha District involved loss of control. These crashes resulted in 12 fatalities, 126 serious injuries and 495 minor injuries.

Crash numbers have increased slightly over the last five years.

| Loss of Control Crashes 2003 to 2007 |               |                 |               |                    |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Crash year                           | Fatal crashes | Serious crashes | Minor crashes | Non-injury crashes |
| 2003                                 | 1             | 26              | 51            | 58                 |
| 2004                                 | 3             | 15              | 55            | 53                 |
| 2005                                 | 0             | 19              | 64            | 56                 |
| 2006                                 | 2             | 22              | 69            | 73                 |
| 2007                                 | 4             | 21              | 59            | 67                 |
| Total                                | 10            | 103             | 298           | 307                |

Most loss of control crashes occur when a driver loses control of their vehicle and either runs off the road or collides with another vehicle.

After drivers lose control their vehicles often crash into roadside hazards such as ditches, banks, poles or trees. Hitting these objects can result in a relatively minor off-road event turning into something far more serious.

The three most common roadside hazards struck in injury crashes in Clutha District were cliffs or banks (103), ditches (108) and fences (104) from a total of 478 objects struck.

| Main characteristics of injury loss of control crashes |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Crash characteristic                                   | Percentage of crashes |
| Bend   | 71                    |
| Straight road  | 29                    |
| Single vehicle   | 86                    |
| Alcohol  | 11                    |
| Excessive speed for the conditions                     | 26                    |
| Road factors   | 39                    |
| Poor handling  | 48                    |
| Rural road   | 94                    |
| Wet road   | 43                    |
| Night time   | 37                    |

Further information about injury loss of control crashes (2003 to 2007) on local roads in Clutha District:

- 3 deaths, 60 serious injuries and 232 minor injuries
- 68 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type "Loss of control on bends"
- Most common age group 15-24 years
- 17 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 30 percent of crashes involved speed
- Worst month April
- Worst day of week Saturday
- Worst time period 3 pm - 6 pm

Further information about injury loss of control crashes (2003 to 2007) on Transit NZ roads in Clutha District:

- 9 deaths, 66 serious injuries and 263 minor injuries
- 64 percent of at fault drivers were male
- Most common crash type "Loss of control on bends"
- Most common age group 20-24 years
- 6 percent of crashes involved alcohol
- 23 percent of crashes involved speed
- Worst month June
- Worst day of week Friday
- Worst time period 3 pm - 6 pm

## National issues

This section contains some brief information on the key national road safety issues as measured in Clutha District. They may have been covered elsewhere in this document or not be a specific issue.

### Speed

In Clutha District, "Too fast" was recorded in 111 fatal and injury crashes in the district in the last five years resulting in 6 deaths and 191 injuries. Speed as a factor in crashes is increasing in the district.

83 percent of all speed-related crashes were Loss of control on a bend. Poor handling was the other driver factor most often associated with speed in injury crashes.

79 percent of at fault drivers in these injury crashes were males. The most common ages of these drivers were between the ages of 15 to 24 years

### Alcohol

In Clutha District, alcohol was involved in 52 fatal and injury crashes in the district in the last five years resulting in 6 deaths, and 78 other injuries. The number of injury crashes involving alcohol is increasing.

76 percent of all alcohol crashes were in rural areas of the district. 49 percent of these were Loss of control on bends. Speed and poor handling were the other factors often associated with alcohol in injury crashes.

88 percent of at fault drivers in these injury crashes were males. The most common ages of these drivers were between the ages of 15 to 24 years

### Failure to give way

In Clutha District, failure to give way or stop was reported in 48 fatal and injury crashes during the last five years resulting in 1 deaths and 71 other injuries.

Poor observation was the driver factor most often associated with failure to give way.

70 percent of at fault drivers in these injury crashes were males. The most common ages of these drivers were between the ages of 30 to 49 years

### Restraints

The Ministry of Transport conducts surveys of restraint use. The results of these surveys are at a regional level, and may not be fully appropriate to a Territorial Authority. The results are obtainable from the Ministry of Transport website.

<http://www.transport.govt.nz/belts-index/>