

Towards the Uncrashable Car – a note to the Minister

Victoria could once again lead the world by adopting a strategy to move ***Towards the Uncrashable Car***.

Victoria historically has been a world leader in road safety. Victoria was first to introduce mandatory motorcycle helmets (1960), seatbelts (1970), random breath testing & child restraints (1976), speed cameras & bicycle helmets (1990), alcohol interlock devices (2002) and Electronic Stability Control (2011). Most of these were world firsts. It's time to introduce a couple of additional safety improvements.

Most new cars now have the option of including **Automatic Emergency Braking**: Audi, BMW, Chrysler, Citroen, Fiat, Ford, Holden, Honda, HSV, Hyundai, Infiniti, Jaguar, Jeep, Kia, Land Rover, Lexus, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz, Mini, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Peugeot, Porsche, Skoda, Subaru, Tesla, Toyota, VW, & Volvo. (From TAC website).

Some of these cars also have **pedestrian systems** which minimise the injury caused to pedestrians if they are struck by the vehicle, for example:



In a collision with a pedestrian or cyclist the bonnet lifts up, an airbag is deployed and the impact on the pedestrian is mitigated.

Many cars have **lane departure warning systems** which detect if a vehicle is straying out of its lane and first give a warning and then they can over-ride or take control of the steering.

Also there is **Intelligent Speed Adaption** which assist drivers to stay within the speed limit.

Then there is long list of other systems which can improve safety: Adaptive Cruise Control, Adaptive Headlights with cornering, Backup Cameras, Blind Spot Warning / Lane Change Assistant, Cooperative Intersection Safety Systems, Curve Speed Warning, Emergency Call / Mayday – Ecall, Front & Rear Side View Cameras, Night Vision Applications.

These systems clearly have the potential to make further significant inroads into the road toll and together they will eventually make the motor vehicle almost uncrashable.

Victoria is in danger of losing its status as a world leader in road safety because LREADY a group of major automakers accounting for more than half of U.S. auto sales will make automatic emergency braking standard on new U.S. vehicles (www.reuters.com/article/us-autos-safety-braking-idUSKCN0RB1X720150914#LqF23UXqu6yqLWeH.99)

The road toll costs the Victorian economy in excess of \$6 billion annually (TAC). The case for moving ***Towards the Uncrashable Car*** is compelling on financial grounds as well as human and ethical grounds.

There is currently a lot of discussion about the development of the Autonomous or Driverless Vehicle. However the above technologies could be deployed earlier to move ***Towards the Uncrashable Car***. This could be developed well ahead of the autonomous vehicle because it would simply continue with the introduction of driver assist technology and leave the driver in control of the vehicle. The next step allowing the driver to relinquish control is a big and complex one that will require much more time to resolve.

The ITEANZ would welcome further discussion regarding the potential of moving ***Towards the Uncrashable Car***.

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