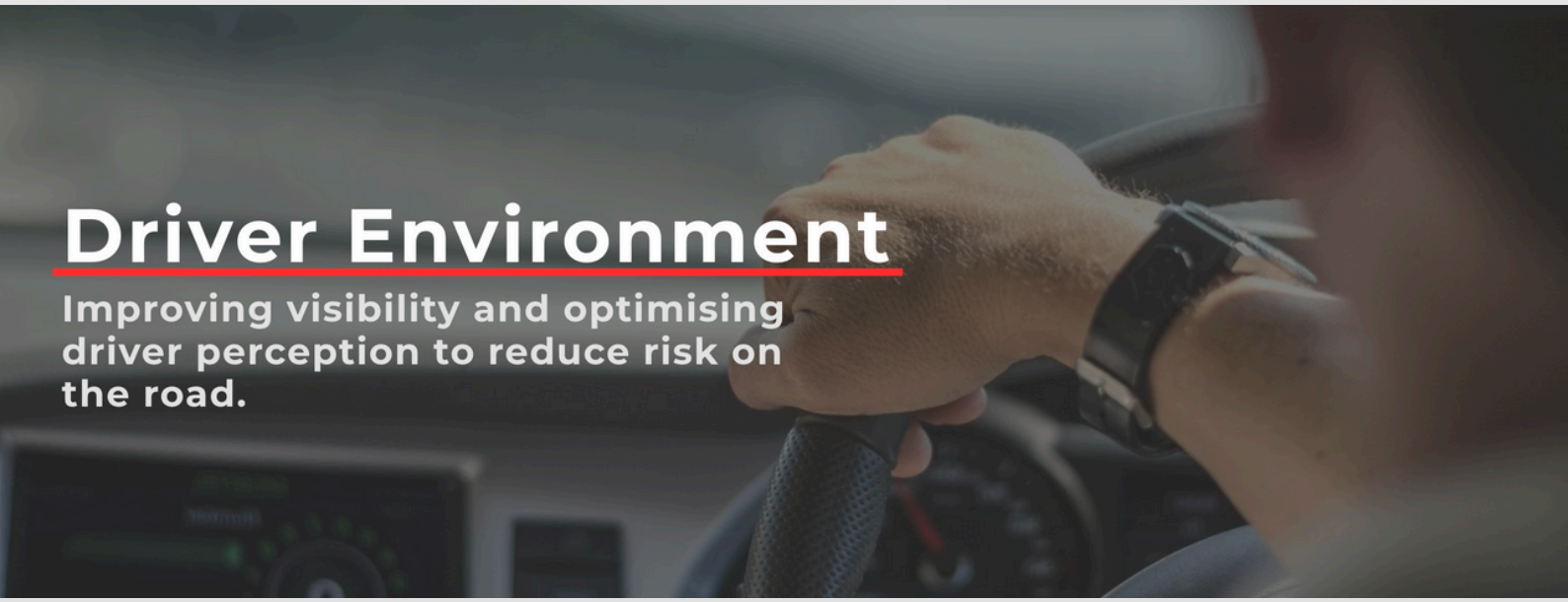


Driver Environment

Improving visibility and optimising driver perception to reduce risk on the road.

What's it about?

The driving environment refers to the physical and sensory conditions that affect how drivers perceive and respond to their surroundings.

Key factors include the field of view, management of blind spots, and road design features that guide driver behavior. Enhanced driving environments help prevent accidents by improving driver awareness and reaction time.

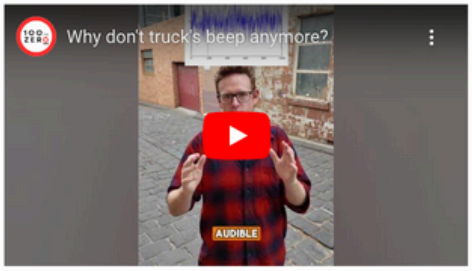
Practices like the "Dutch Reach," which encourages drivers to check for cyclists before opening car doors, are simple yet impactful measures.

In Australia, infrastructure improvements, such as better road markings and intersection designs, coupled with driver education, create safer and more intuitive driving experiences for everyone.

The 100 to Zero Project is supported by the National Road Safety Strategy's National Road Safety Action Grants Program.

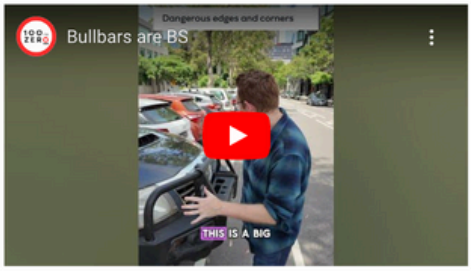
Watch Videos

Explore road safety topics in 100 seconds or less.



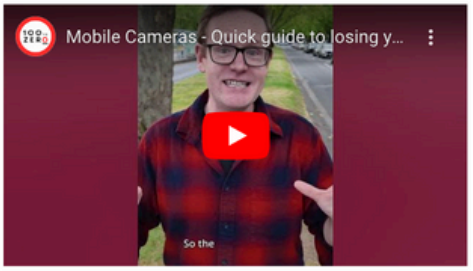
Why don't truck's beep anymore?

We're curious too 🤔



Bullbars are BS

We called it. Have you ever thought about the impact of a bulbar in the city? 🚗🐂



Hands off your Phone

A quick tip for losing your licence? Keep your hands off your mobile phone.

Benefits

How improvements to the driver's environment can improve road safety.

Improved Driver Awareness

A well-designed driving environment ensures drivers have clear sightlines and are aware of other vehicles, as well as vulnerable road users, such as cyclists and pedestrians. Measures like wider lanes for bicycles and strategic placement of mirrors at intersections reduce accidents involving blind spots [1].

Technology Integration

Modern vehicles increasingly incorporate technologies that enhance driver awareness, including blind-spot monitoring, lane departure warnings, and adaptive cruise control, creating a more supportive driving environment. On the roads, features like better or responsive lighting, advanced signage, and road surface markings help drivers anticipate potential hazards, lowering crash rates [2].

Safer for Cyclists and Pedestrians

Practices like the Dutch Reach teach drivers to check for cyclists before opening car doors, significantly reducing the risk of dooring accidents [1].

Enhanced Reaction Times

Intuitive road designs, such as traffic calming measures and visual cues like painted speed zones and painted bike lanes encourage slower speeds and quicker reactions in high-risk areas [3].

Improving Driving Environment Examples

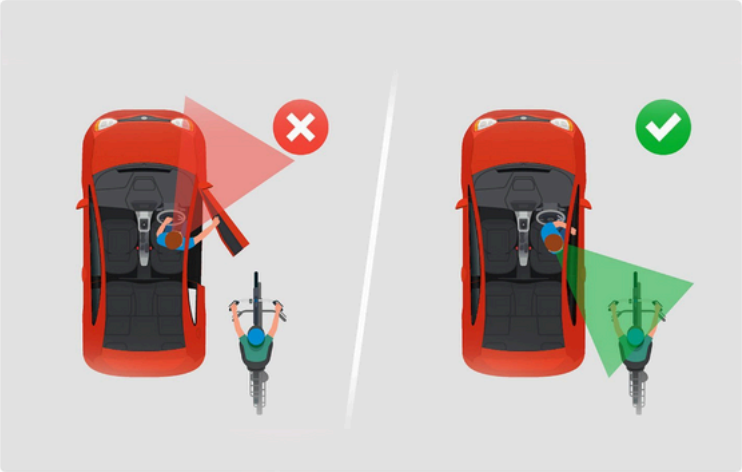
Citylink Sound Tube, Melbourne

This innovative tunnel includes transparent and noise-reducing materials, enhancing drivers' visibility while minimising sensory overload. These features ensure safer navigation through a typically high-risk environment.

Key Features:

- Noise reduction to improve driver focus.
- Transparent panels to maintain natural light and visibility.
- Simplified road signage to reduce distractions.

Dutch Reach Education Campaign, Nationwide



Bicycle Network's Dutch Reach Campaign

Australia's Bicycle Network promotes the Dutch Reach, a practice teaching drivers to use their far hand to open the car door, forcing them to check for approaching cyclists.

Key Features:

- Nationwide driver education programs.
- Integration into driving tests in some states.
- Campaigns targeting urban and high-cyclist-density areas.

References

[1] Bicycle Network Victoria, Dutch Reach Campaign.

[2] Australian Road Safety Foundation

[3] Austroads, Guide to Road Design Part 6A: Paths for Walking and Cycling

Helpful Guides

Bicycle Network Victoria

Dutch Reach Project

Victoria Walks

Austroads Guide to Paths for Walking and Cycling

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