



Ref: CSEC-1-23-4061
Your ref COR 2022 002657

Ms Janet Lee
Coroners Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006
cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Lee

**RECOMMENDATION RELATED TO FINDING INTO DEATH WITHOUT INQUEST -
YUKAKO FUKUHARA**

I refer to your letter of 21 July 2023 addressed to Paul Younis, Secretary of the Department of Transport and Planning requiring a response to the Recommendation related to finding into death without inquest of Yukako Fukuhara. Your letter has been referred to Road Safety Victoria, a division of DTP, for response.

The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and Transport Accident Commission (TAC) extend their sympathy to the family and friends of Ms Fukuhara.

Thank you for providing the recommendation for the attention of DTP and TAC:

In conjunction with the Transport Accident Commission (TAC), consider developing a public awareness campaign to highlight the dangers of cycling around trucks (trailer trucks) in an urban setting.

I am pleased to advise that the Coroner's recommendation is supported.

The *Construction Trucks and Community Safety* project is a multi-stakeholder initiative delivered by Road Safety Victoria premised on improving the safety of vulnerable road users around construction trucks. TAC has also been involved in this project for a number of years, and currently participate in the project's Reference Group.

The project is currently preparing a public education marketing campaign to educate vulnerable road users on key safety messages related to their interactions around construction trucks, and is intended to commence in early November 2023.

The public education campaign will cover:

- Digital communications of advice to pedestrians, motorcyclists and bicycle riders about how to stay safe when riding around construction trucks, including trucks with trailers.
- Community activations to draw attention to the large blind spots that are present on construction trucks. An example of a 'Swapping Seats' activation is shown on the

Construction Trucks and Community Safety web page:
[Construction Trucks and Community Safety : VicRoads](#)

- Further media buy is planned.

In addition, “Toolbox Talks” for heavy vehicle drivers have been developed in conjunction with the National Road Safety Partnership Program, with a focus on truck driver education about blind spots, pedestrians and bicycle rider safety. These education resources are linked from the VicRoads web site at the address above.

Other industry focussed outreach is also underway to communicate the *Construction Trucks and Community Safety* project’s resources on route selection, temporary traffic management and truck standards - all of which can be embedded into construction contract clauses. As part of this project, contract clauses to improve safety have been successfully adopted by the Major Transport Infrastructure Authority Projects in Victoria. Reaching out to local government and the broader construction industry is progressing, through webinars, conference presentations and industry focused resources. All related resources are available on the VicRoads web site as cited above.

A research component of this project investigated drawbar safety in relation to bicycle riders and pedestrians. The research report will be provided to various relevant committees for consideration. A presentation on this research was made at the Australasian College of Road Safety Conference in Cairns in mid-September 2023.

There is also a national project underway called CLOCS-A (Construction Logistics and Community Safety – Australia) that has developed community resources to raise awareness about truck safety issues and training resources to enhance truck drivers’ awareness of vulnerable road users. These resources can be found here: <https://clocs-a.org.au/resources/>

As a result of a collision that occurred on 2 February 2023, between a cyclist and left turning vehicle at the intersection of Footscray Road and Dock Link Road, West Melbourne, an Extended Crash Investigation was undertaken by Road Safety Victoria. A number of recommendations were made, including developing a public education campaign to deliver safety messages related to left hand turn driver and cyclist interactions. This has now been funded for delivery.

DTP have since completed a review of where the Principal Freight Network intersects with the Strategic Cycling Corridors network. A public education campaign is currently being prepared to improve safety during left hand turn driver and bicycle rider interactions.

There have been continued advancements in the safety standards of heavy vehicles to ensure safety of vulnerable road users. These come in mandatory regulations through the Australian Design Rules (ADRs), and state contract-based requirements through the *Construction Trucks and Community Safety* Project that require blind spot elimination; and the fitment of side-underruns, left turn audible alarms, conspicuity markings; and other safety enhancements.

The Safer Freight Package introduced new requirements for various vehicle safety technology to improve safety of VRUs. This includes enhanced requirements for indirect vision to the rear, side, and front of the vehicle (ADR 14/03) and mandating of Blind Spot Information Systems (from 1 November 2025) that inform the driver of a possible side collision with a cyclist.

The Safer Freight Package also introduced new requirements for side underrun protection. These devices reduce the chance of a cyclist or pedestrian falling under the wheels of a truck and being fatally or seriously injured.

Reversing aids have also been mandated from 1 November 2025 for all new model vehicles and 1 November 2027 for all new vehicles. Reversing aids use mirrors, cameras, sensors or a combination of devices to ensure the driver is aware of any vulnerable road user behind the vehicle while reversing.

Similar to the Victorian *Construction Trucks and Community Safety* project, side underrun and indirect vision mirrors are improvements that will also be made under the CLOCS-A scheme once implemented, to raise the safety performance of in-service trucks operating on the network.

Additionally, through its partnerships program, the TAC has promoted improved visibility amongst bicycle riders at events, on social media and to its cycling email subscriber list. The TAC has entered into a partnership with the Amy Gillett Foundation to promote the use of high-visibility reflective cycling clothing as part of the Amy's Gran Fondo event, held on 9 September 2023. Through the partnership, the TAC and Amy Gillett Foundation will be conducting research into riders' perceptions of bright and colourful, highly visible, clothing, as well as a scientific program that will look into effectiveness of reflective clothing and opportunities to improve the visibility of bike riders.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Elvira Lazar, Principal Policy Lead, Road User Behaviour and Access, Road Safety Victoria at

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Frances Taylor (DTP)
Director, Road Safety Policy, Programs and Partnerships
Road Safety Victoria

20/10/2023