# Network Safety Plans for Local Government – C’mon Aotearoa!

Despite our Australian cousins having better road safety performance than us, Aotearoa has always taken pride in being leaders in the areas of road safety strategy, policy, assessment and prioritisation techniques. However, we’re at risk at losing that mantle as Australia embeds network safety plans as a key process for delivering systemic safety improvements at a state and local government level to deliver on their Vision Zero aspiration.

This presentation presents the case for why Aotearoa should embark on this new journey. It draws on experience from a project delivered by Abley for the Victoria Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) that involves network safety plan development and implementation guidance for local government.

The preparation of network safety plans is mandated in Australia’s National Road Safety Strategy 2021-30. Network safety plans provide infrastructure and speed limit setting end-states, which paint a picture of what the road network should look like to achieve zero deaths and serious injuries by 2050 for both midblock and intersections. The network safety plan identifies where gaps existing between the current network state and defined end state, which in turn provides the reference for the preferred scope of projects from a safety perspective. The aim being to ensure safety improvements are future focused and delivering systematic safety improvements on a road corridor basis consistent with network safety plan defined end states.

The network safety plan guidance prepared for the Victoria DTP is comprehensive yet simplified and practical to acknowledge capacity constraints that exist in many local governments. Step-by-step guidance is provided to assist local government develop and prioritise the implementation of infrastructure and speed management projects in the short-term whilst aligning with longer term end states.

The presentation will be of interest to everyone interested in best practice methods for delivering Vision Zero.