

2.07.21

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Ms Lorraine Walker
Chief Coroner ACT
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Walker

Mandated **autonomous emergency braking (AEB)** potentially prevents the tragedy of deaths such as that of four-year-old Blake Corney, a matter which is being considered by you.

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, in partnership with other agencies committed to improved road safety, advocates for the **Australian Design Rules to mandate Autonomous Emergency Braking on all new vehicles imported into Australia, particularly the heavy vehicles.**

Safety benefit might also result from measures such as

- **removal of tariffs** on all imported vehicles with enhanced safety features such as AEB
- **adoption of fiscal factors encouraging purchase of safer vehicles**
- **subsidised purchase price** of contemporary five-star safety-rated vehicles
- **reduction in registration costs** on vehicles incorporating autonomous emergency braking and other contemporary safety technologies

National (1) and international (2,3,4) evidence categorically demonstrates the benefit of Autonomous Emergency Braking.

More comprehensive crash investigation will always assist in the analysis of preventable components of the crash risk matrix.

As surgeons committed to the reduction of preventable injury from road crashes, we support a coronial recommendation advocating the adoption of Autonomous Emergency Braking as a mandatory requirement in the heavy vehicle fleet, and in the light vehicle fleet.

Yours sincerely

John Crozier
Chair, RACS Trauma Committee

Jodie-Kate Williams
Chair RACS Road Trauma Advisory Committee

1. Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC) conducted an Enhanced Crash Investigation Study (published November 2020) which included 'Active safe technologies such as AEB are valuable technologies that can have the effect of reducing the speed of the vehicle at impact. By combining passive safety requirements with active safety systems, the impact forces can be further reduced'.
https://www.monash.edu/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/2406655/MUARC-ECIS-REPORT-1-FULL-REPORT-MUARC-REPORT-343-2020.pdf
2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a8lquf_yk14 (USA's Insurance Institute of Highway Safety _US car safety ratings)
3. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_JZvL4Gx1g (Volvo EU's approach)
4. EU video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oAHlthX3-NM>



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