

Section 6

Work health and safety

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We operate according to four core safety beliefs:

- All injuries can be prevented.
- Safety first, work second.
- Everyone is responsible for safety.
- Working safely is a condition of employment.

Our goal is to create a strong safety culture by encouraging all our workers and industry partners to “stop, think and act” about safety.

Work health and safety performance

During 2013–14 the most prevalent serious incidents categories included:

- Motor vehicle crashes (44 occurrences).
- Plant rollovers (35 occurrences).
- Utility strikes (35 occurrences).

Table 6.1 Work health and safety performance indicators

Performance indicator	2012–13	2013–14
Total incidents reported	4251	3545
Near misses reported*	2390	1843
Lost time injuries	160	155
All other injuries (including First Aid and no treatment)	959	904
Other incidents reported (including asset/property damage)	742	643
Number of near misses per injury	2.1	1.74
All compensable injuries (including journey claims)	334	322
Compensable workplace injuries	327	315
Total claims costs (\$ million)	2.15	2.03

*Including hazard identification.

During 2013–14:

- The number of reported incidents decreased compared to the previous financial year.
- Near-miss reporting accounted for 52 per cent of reported incidents.

- Lost time injuries accounted for four per cent of incidents.
- All other injuries (including first aid and no treatment) made up a further 26 per cent of reported incidents.

Roads and Maritime continues to work on a range of initiatives to further reduce the number of incidents resulting in injury.

Working with industry

In 2013–14 Roads and Maritime continued to invest in strengthening our work health and safety capability and enhancing our partnerships with industry. We participate in industry and regional forums with councils to strengthen safety partnerships through consultation, cooperation and coordination on key risk areas.

In 2013–14 we:

- Partnered with Fulton Hogan to establish a safety team for the Princes Highway upgrade in Gerringong. This team collaborated on all work health and safety matters for the project, with priority given to the development of a Safety Improvement Plan. This Plan drives active safety management across the Gerringong upgrade, with an emphasis on risk control, improving the safety management system and promoting a strong safety culture.
- Held the fifth Pacific Highway Work Health and Safety workshop, which was attended by a broad cross-section of WorkCover NSW, industry partners in traffic control and materials haulage, and our staff. The theme of the workshop was “working near traffic” and provided an opportunity to share solutions and agree on consistent safety standards for high risk activities.

Prosecutions

Roads and Maritime was involved in one prosecution, resulting in a fine of \$175,000 (plus costs) on 24 December 2013 after an incident involving a worker fatality on the F3 in June 2009.

Case study

Safety first for working near traffic

In 2013–14 we continued to identify ways to eliminate the hazards and disruptions of working near traffic. The traditional approach is to establish traffic management plans to allow traffic to flow through our work sites while work is underway.

However, vehicles travelling through active work sites increase the risk to the workforce and the community.

In May and June 2014 we arranged a three-night closure of a section of Picton Road and a section of the Princes Highway near Bulli Tops, with supporting detours in place, so that a suite of upgrade and maintenance projects could be completed.

Extensive communication was carried out with our customers and industry partners to ensure appropriate detours were in place and clearly communicated to reduce disruptions to their journeys and business operations.

By eliminating traffic from these work sites, we:

- Made the work sites safer for our workforce and contractors.
- Were able to finish the work faster, resulting in cost savings and a reduced impact on the travelling public.