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## **AAMI Crash Index: Hume Highway in Liverpool named Sydney's most dangerous road for sixth consecutive year**

- **Male drivers** in Sydney almost twice as likely than females to be in a crash
- **Drivers aged 35-49** worst offenders across NSW
- **Nose to tail** crashes account for vast majority of crashes at top spot
- **Thursday** is the worst day on the #1 road, **afternoons** most dangerous for crashes
- **Four new entries** in Sydney's top 10

Hume Highway, Liverpool has been named Sydney's most dangerous crash hotspot for the sixth year in a row, and Australia's fourth worst hotspot, with an increased number of crashes compared to 2022, according to new data from national insurer AAMI.

The 2023 AAMI Crash Index, which analysed more than 350,000 motor insurance claims<sup>i</sup> across the country from 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023, shines a light on the most dangerous crash hotspots and encourages drivers to remain safe and vigilant while behind the wheel.

AAMI's Head of Motor Customer Engagement, Tammy Hall, said the data revealed interestingly that male drivers in Sydney (64 per cent) were almost twice as likely than females (36 per cent) to crash, and the worst offenders were drivers aged 35-49 (37 per cent).

When looking at the number one hotspot, nose to tail collisions were the most common type of crash, with almost two thirds (61 per cent) crashing this way. Thursdays were the most dangerous day of the week to be on the Hume Highway in Liverpool, with most accidents occurring in the afternoon<sup>ii</sup> between 1pm – 4.30pm.

"The Liverpool stretch of Hume Highway is notorious for congestion and collisions, as it has been a constant fixture in Sydney's top ten crash hotspots for more than half a decade," Ms Hall said.

"This busy multi-lane road intersects with other main roads at various entry points, making it prone to extreme congestion, especially during peak periods."

The M4 Motorway in Paramatta was the biggest mover, increasing from seventh place last year to second place this year in the hotspot list. A contributing factor could be the M4 motorway's Church Street exit, which is frequently bottlenecked and used by thousands of Sydney drivers each day to avoid paying tolls. The off-ramp is the final opportunity for motorists to leave the motorway before tolls apply and connects drivers to Westmead Hospital, multiple shopping centres, Western Sydney University campus and Rose Hill Racecourse.

While each of the top 10 hotspots had their own, individual factors which contributed to their position in the rankings, many of them share some commonalities.

"These hotspots are generally major roads, intersecting with local streets through high traffic industrial, educational and shopping centre precincts, making them consistently busy throughout the day, so it's no surprise that these locations appeared in the top ten this year."

"Another factor to consider is changing traffic conditions and speed limits that are commonly seen on motorway on and off ramps," Ms Hall said.



In 2023, four new locations entered the top 10 – with M5 Motorway in Moorebank and Liverpool, Richmond Road in Marsden Park, and M4 Motorway in Blacktown all featuring in the list.

“With almost half the top 10 being new hotspots this year, it shows that crashes can occur anywhere, and often when we’re close to home as that’s when we can let our guard down. Even at low speeds, crashes can cause serious injury, or worse, so it’s vital to always pay attention while behind the wheel and expect the unexpected,” Ms Hall said.

### 2023 AAMI Crash Index – Sydney

| 2023 Rank | Road            | Suburb        | 2022 Rank | Change |
|-----------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|--------|
| 1         | Hume Highway    | Liverpool     | 1         | ←      |
| 2         | M4 Motorway     | Parramatta    | 7         | ↑      |
| 3         | M5 Motorway     | Moorebank     | -         | New    |
| 4 - Tied  | Parramatta Road | Auburn        | 2         | ↓      |
| 4 - Tied  | Victoria Road   | West Ryde     | 8         | ↑      |
| 5 - Tied  | Hume Highway    | Yagoona       | 3         | ↓      |
| 5 - Tied  | Richmond Road   | Marsden Park  | -         | New    |
| 6 - Tied  | M4 Motorway     | Blacktown     | -         | New    |
| 6 - Tied  | M5 Motorway     | Liverpool     | -         | New    |
| 7         | M4 Motorway     | Eastern Creek | 6         | ↓      |

### New feature in AAMI app keeping Australians safer on the roads

To improve road safety on Aussie roads, AAMI recently launched AAMI Driver Rewards - a feature embedded in the AAMI mobile app. The new experience utilises telematics, cloud, personalisation, mobile sensors, AI and data to inspire and guide safer driving.

Using the app, customers can seamlessly monitor their driving to understand patterns and opportunities for improvement, which is achieved through smart scoring and gamification of their driving behaviours. Each customers’ safe driving view is aggregated at a trip level with further encouragement and guidance provided to drive safer. Score improvements as well as positive driving behaviours are acknowledged and celebrated in the app.

Since it launched, more than 70,000 customers have registered. Data captured found that more than 50 per cent of users who had low driving scores when they started ended up improving their score, while those starting with high scores maintained their score, indicating that strong driving patterns are consistently achieved through the app’s guidance.

Supporting this, in the first 30 days of use, telematics data showed app users maintained or improved their score in cornering (53%), speeding (60%), phone distraction (55%), hard braking (52%) and acceleration (53%).

Ms Hall said: “Through gamification and slow-but-steady behavioural changes, the app program has not only improved the on-road safety of users, but also highlighted the importance of safe driving and better understanding of the specific contributing factors to achieve this.”



## 2023 AAMI Crash Insights - Sydney Vs New South Wales

|                                  | Sydney                   | New South Wales          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Most common day</b>           | Friday (19%)             | Friday (16%)             |
| <b>Most common time</b>          | Afternoons (27%)         | Afternoons (28%)         |
| <b>Gender</b>                    | Males 64% Vs Females 36% | Males 54% Vs Females 46% |
| <b>Most common accident type</b> | Nose to tail (29%)       | Nose to tail (23%)       |
| <b>Most common age</b>           | 35-49 (37%)              | 35-49 (24%)              |

When comparing crash statistics between drivers in Sydney and the rest of New South Wales, AAMI data revealed nose to tail collisions to be the most common type of accident on both Sydney and New South Wales roads.

“Tailgating, driver distraction and potentially road rage can lead to nose to tail collisions, and to avoid them, drivers in New South Wales need to travel at a safe distance behind the car in front and ensure they are paying attention at all times,” Ms Hall said.

“A good rule of thumb, according to the New South Wales Government, is to always drive at least 3 seconds behind the car in front (often called the 3-second gap).<sup>iii</sup> This should be a larger gap if the driving conditions are poor, or you’re driving a heavy vehicle. This allows adequate time to react and respond to a situation safely and avoid a crash.

“Bumper to bumper collisions often happen during peak hour traffic when the roads are busy, patience is wearing thin, drivers are tired from the day, and are in a rush to get to their destination. This is when accidents most commonly occur.

“Most risks on the road can be mitigated if everyone pays attention and drives to the conditions. It’s up to all of us to do the right thing to ensure everyone’s safety on the road. All it takes is a split second of not having your eyes on the road for things to go wrong.

“AAMI is urging all drivers across New South Wales to take care behind the wheel, and help us reduce the number of crashes in the next year’s Crash Index,” Ms Hall said.

For more information about the 2023 AAMI Crash Index, [click here](#).

To use the AAMI Driver Rewards program in the AAMI App, [click here](#).

[ENDS]

### Notes to Editor

#### About AAMI Crash Index

AAMI has been tackling road safety head-on by revealing where accidents most commonly occur across Australia since 1994, to highlight to motorists the importance of driving safely and being extra vigilant, particularly at identified locations.

### For more information, or to arrange an interview, contact AAMI Media Relations:

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<sup>i</sup> Claims data collected from Suncorp Group’s network of brands including: AAMI, Suncorp Insurance, GIO, Apia and Bingle



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ii Early morning 12 – 6am; morning peak 6 – 9.30am; morning 9.30am – 1pm, afternoon 1 – 4.30pm; evening peak 4.30 – 8pm; night 8pm – 12am

iii [Safe stopping distance](#) | [NSW Government](#)