

Protecting Vulnerable Road Users (VRUs)

Top 10 Questions to Ask Before You Buy a Car

Use ANCAP's website to compare vehicles. A safer car might cost less than you think.

[ancap.com.au](https://www.ancap.com.au)

Cyclists, pedestrians, and motorcyclists – are the most vulnerable road users, so at the most at-risk. Modern cars must be designed to keep them safe too.

1

What is the ANCAP safety rating for this specific model and variant, and when was it tested?

A 5-star rating is most meaningful when awarded recently. Testing protocols evolve regularly—aim for a rating awarded within the last three to six years.

2

Are all key safety features standard or do I need to pay extra for them?

Safety shouldn't be an optional upgrade. Confirm which features are included in the model you're considering—not just what's available in brochures. Thanks to ANCAP, optional safety packs are now quite rare – with most safety features provided as standard.

3

Does this car's AEB system detect pedestrians and cyclists, including at night?

The most effective AEB systems detect vulnerable road users in real-world conditions, including in low light.

4

Is there an "Exit Warning" or a ti-dooring alert for opening doors into bike lanes?

This alert helps prevent injuries to cyclists, especially in urban settings.

5

Does the vehicle have rear cross-traffic alert, wide-angle reversing cameras, or 360° vision?

These features prevent collisions in driveways and car parks where pedestrians, prams, and bikes often pass behind the vehicle.

6

Is there a Driver Monitoring System to help prevent distraction and drowsiness?

These systems detect if you're not paying attention—one of the leading causes of crashes.

7

Does the car have Speed Assistance Systems to help you stay within speed limit?

These systems use GPS or cameras to detect signs and provide alerts—or even actively help keep you legal.

8

What is the visibility like from the driver's seat? Are there major blind spots?

Try it yourself. Look for thick A-pillars, B-pillars, C-pillars, high belt lines, or blind zones that might hide cyclists or small pedestrians.

9

How does this car score on "Vulnerable Road User Protection" in the ANCAP breakdown?

ANCAP star ratings are made up of four separate pillar scores that focus on key areas of protection. Look specifically for the VRU Protection score to see how well the car protects people outside it.

10

What is the ANCAP safety rating for this specific model and variant, and when was it tested?

How does this model compare with others in terms of safety—not just comfort, style, or price?