

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10.30AM THURSDAY, 11 FEBRUARY, 2021

WINNERS TABLE

Safest passenger car under \$30,000

Winner: **Toyota Yaris (all variants)**

Runners up: Mazda 3 (all variants) and Kia Cerato (all variants except S and Sport)

The Toyota Yaris beat out a pair of impressive small cars to take the title as Australia's safest, most affordable car by winning the safest passenger car under \$30,000. As well as eight airbags, including segment-first front-row centre airbags, all Yaris variants come standard with autonomous emergency braking with pedestrian detection (day and night) and cyclist detection (day), lane keeping aid with lane centring, adaptive cruise control, a secondary collision brake system and more. In its ANCAP crash test, the Yaris scored highly in all four areas, especially adult and child occupant protection.

Safest passenger car over \$30,000

Winner: **Mercedes-Benz CLA-Class (all variants except AMG CLA35)**

Runners up: Tesla Model 3 (all variants) and BMW 3 Series (2.0L variants)

This category was dominated by premium brands, with Mercedes-Benz nabbing the top spot with its CLA four-door coupe (all variants except AMG CLA35). Tested in 2019, the swoopy CLA scored higher than 90 per cent for adult and child occupant, and vulnerable road user protection. Just some of the standard features include autonomous emergency braking, lane keep assist, lane departure warning and a blind spot monitor.

Safest SUV under \$35,000

Winner: **Mazda CX-30**

Runners up: Volkswagen T-Cross (all variants) and Skoda Kamiq (all variants)

Mazda took the top spot in this awards category with its CX-30 crossover tested in 2020. Mechanically related to the Mazda3, the CX-30 blitzed the adult occupant test with 99 per cent and achieved a commendable 80 per cent for the vulnerable road user test. Autonomous emergency braking (city, interurban and vulnerable road user), lane keep assist, lane departure warning and an advanced speed assistance system are fitted as standard across the range.

Safest SUV over \$35,000

Winner: **Land Rover Defender (all current 110 variants)**

Runners up: Kia Sorento (Diesel variants only) and Tesla Model X (all variants)

RACV's safest SUV over \$35,000 is Land Rover's new-generation Defender 4x4 (all 110 variants). The previous Defender, with its utilitarian design, was famously in production for decades, and it was very similar in design and concept to the original from 1948. The new model is technologically advanced and packed with safety gear like autonomous emergency braking (car-to-car, vulnerable road user and junction assist) a lane support system with lane keep assist, lane departure warning and emergency lane keeping, and advanced speed assistance.