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Tassie's top 10 worst roads revealed

RACT members say the standard of Tasmania's roads is better than two years ago, but more needs to be done to upgrade key infrastructure around the state.

RACT's 2019 Member Survey, which received 5500 responses, asked members to rate their worst roads in Tasmania. Overall, members rated the standard of roads in Tasmania 6.05 out of 10, compared to 4.88/10 in 2017.

"We have seen a marked improvement in how our members rate Tasmania's roads in the past two years," RACT Acting Group Chief Executive Stacey Pennicott said.

"We believe a lot of this is to do with recent upgrades at notorious stretches of road such as the intersection of the Huon Highway at Summerleas Rd, as well as the continued upgrade of the Midland Highway.

"In fact, for the first time in many years, the Midland Highway dropped from number one on the list of our members' top 10 worst roads, to second.

"This is a good indicator that the 10-year plan is achieving its long-term goal of providing improved infrastructure on this vital link between the state's main cities."

When looking region by region, north-west members had the highest regard for the state's roads in the 2019 survey, rating them 6.54/10 (up from 5.27 in 2017), while members in the south rated them 5.76/10 (up from 4.68). Northern members rated them 6.26/10 in 2019 (up from 5.01 in 2017).

"We believe the difference of opinion of our members in different regions reflects the spend on infrastructure in these areas of the state," Ms Pennicott said.

"In recent years we have seen significant investment in the Bass Hwy in the north-west and Midland Hwy in the north of the state, which we believe has contributed to the improvement in ratings.

“Our southern members continue to list congestion issues as a major concern, which would be a strong contributor to their lower ratings.

“Which is why we’re calling for all levels of government to work with us to bring our 30-year Greater Hobart Mobility Vision to fruition.”

Ms Pennicott said while the current works on the Midland Highway were frustrating for motorists, the 10-year plan was a good example of a well-planned and funded upgrade that should be replicated around the state.

“We acknowledge that a lot of work has been done as part of the Midland Highway 10-year plan and congratulate the State Government on being ahead of schedule halfway through this project,” Ms Pennicott said.

“It is excellent to see it progressively being upgraded to a minimum AusRAP 3-star safety standard.”

Concerns were raised for the Tasman Highway’s Great Eastern Drive, particularly between Swansea and Bicheno, and the Hobart to Sorell corridor.

“While work is happening for remedial and safety improvements along parts the Great Eastern Drive, we’re calling on the government to reveal more specific and long-term plans for improving the entire length of this highway, particularly between Swansea and Bicheno,” Ms Pennicott said.

“In addition, while funding has been allocated for the Hobart to Sorell corridor as part of the South East Traffic Solution, no start date or specific timeline has been provided for this project.”

The Bass Highway came in third in the survey, with the biggest concern highlighted by members being the Wynyard to Marrawah corridor – particularly west of Smithton. Other issues flagged included the Burnie to Smithton corridor and the Parramatta Creek section between Elizabeth Town and Sassafras.

“Funding has been promised for work on the Bass Highway between Marrawah and Wynyard and at Parramatta Creek,” Ms Pennicott said.

“However, once again no start date or specific timeline has been provided and Tasmanians need to know when these important upgrades will take place.”

The Arthur Highway came in at number four for members, with particular concerns between Dunalley and Port Arthur as well as Nubeena Road.

Ms Pennicott said it was a significant concern that members had again rated these same highways as the state’s top four worst roads.

“In terms of the Arthur Highway, while funding is available for some projects, we would like to see improvements along the highway to Port Arthur,” she said.

Released by:
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TOP 10 WORST RATED ROADS	SPECIFIC CONCERNS
1. Tasman Highway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Eastern Drive, specifically between Swansea and Bicheno • Hobart and Sorell corridor
2. Midland Highway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roadworks • More overtaking lanes
3. Bass Highway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wynyard and Marrawah • West of Smithton • Burnie to Smithton • Parramatta Creek
4. Arthur Highway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between Dunalley and Port Arthur • Nubeena Road
5. West Tamar Highway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legana to Exeter, Beaconsfield and Greens Beach
6. Channel Highway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Margate to Huntingfield roundabout • Between Tarooma and Kingston • Lack of bike paths from Tarooma to Margate
7. Macquarie and Davey streets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic congestion
8. Huon Highway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South of Huonville • Sandfly junction, • Vince's Saddle • Grove
9. Esk Highway (Fingal Valley)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between Conara and St Mary's, including St Mary's Pass
10. Southern Outlet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic congestion • Connections onto Macquarie and Davey streets • Safety concerns in wet conditions