

Media release Monday, 19 July 2021

Ferry on track to boost public transport in Hobart

The RACT has welcomed the commencement of sea trials for the long-awaited Derwent Ferry service.

RACT Chief Advocacy Officer Garry Bailey said once in operation the ferry would be an important piece of the puzzle needed to bust Hobart's congestion issues.

"The RACT strongly supports the Derwent ferry because it is a proactive measure to address congestion along one of the key routes into the city, the Tasman Bridge," Mr Bailey said.

"The initiative has been a key component of the RACT's 30-year Greater Hobart Mobility Vision, which aims to encourage greater use of public transport and mode choices such as bikes, e-scooters, and the oldest and cheapest form of transport, walking.

"Statistics show 84 per cent of journeys to work in Greater Hobart are made by private vehicle, which greatly contributes to congestion on the four worst-rated pinch points into the city; Macquarie Street, Davey Street, the Southern Outlet and the Tasman Bridge.

"A recent survey by the RACT showed 63 per cent of those living near the ferry route would use the service, which would go a long way to relieving pressure on traffic from and to the eastern shore in peak times and demonstrates why it's so important we get this service right.

"As well as an immediate travel option to reduce congestion, the ferry will provide valuable insights on commuter travel choices and what further infrastructure might be needed to support a ferry service in the long-term. Ensuring there is appropriate infrastructure in place to support the ferry service is absolutely vital.

"We're encouraging Government to use this opportunity to introduce their integrated ticketing system for all forms of transport, which will help build a service that is convenient, flexible and easy to use, and fits in seamlessly with other transport modes."