



Media release Monday, 23 August 2021

RACT calls for roads to be a key focus of State Budget

The RACT is calling on the Government to make Tasmania's road network a key focus of Thursday's State Budget.

Chief Advocacy Officer, Garry Bailey, said while the Government has made significant progress, there is still a lot of work to do.

"Recently, we've been consulting with our members and the broader community about road safety and it's clear there are a number of key issues the Government needs to focus on," Mr Bailey said.

"Tasmanians are concerned about the state of some of our roads, such as the Huon Highway, the Tasman Highway and the Bass Highway between Devonport and Launceston and also west of Wynyard.

"The Government needs to make sure the maintenance budget keeps pace. Unfortunately, we've seen some roads really deteriorate, with the Bass Highway between Devonport and Launceston a key example of that.

"It's also time the Government considered working closely with Local Governments too, given councils are responsible for more roads than any other level of government.

"Two other significant areas are enforcement and education. Last week we called for the Government to look closely at its school-based education programs to see if they are as good as they can be and give our amazing teachers the right tools to keep our kids safe on the roads.

"Enforcement is another area where the Government could get a significant road safety dividend on any investment. Improving the detection of people using mobile phones while driving is a must. There is also an opportunity to boost high visibility

patrols to discourage people from low-level speeding, because the research clearly shows that being even a little bit over the speed limit can have major consequences.

“The Liberals also promised to develop ten year plans for a number of major highways and we want the budget to clearly show when and how those plans will be developed, delivered and implemented.

“We think it’s also time that the Government better aligned infrastructure projects to match the capacity in our industry.

“The RACT will always stand up for its nearly 210,000 members and will provide a detailed analysis of the budget on Thursday afternoon.”