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RACT gives evidence to Road Safety Inquiry

RACT Group CEO, Mark Mugnaioni, and Chief Advocacy Officer, Garry Bailey, today explained how Tasmania's roads could be made safer at a Legislative Council inquiry.

While the evidence to the Road Safety Inquiry highlighted the troubling number of fatalities and serious injuries on our roads, Mr Mugnaioni and Mr Bailey outlined a clear plan to improve road safety.

"This inquiry is timely," Mr Mugnaioni said.

"The National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 aimed to reduce the number of fatalities on our roads by 30 per cent, but in the last ten years, fatalities in Tasmania have remained stubbornly high.

"This Inquiry is an opportunity to ask why we are still seeing on average around 30 fatalities on our roads each year.

"In preparing our submission we asked our members and the community for their views. Nearly 2,000 responses were received with the main issues raised including the state of our roads, road maintenance, driver behaviour and education, and vehicle safety."

Chief Advocacy Officer, Garry Bailey, said there were a number of actions the Government could implement now that would have a real impact.

"One of the most important things we can do is embed road safety into Government decision-making. Every Government department has a role to play in road safety - education, health, infrastructure, even government businesses like Hydro and Sustainable Timber Tasmania.

"We need to look at ways to reduce distracted driving as well. The Government recently purchased a number of new road safety cameras that can detect if people are using their phones while driving and we would encourage the Government to make the most of this technology.

"Clearly road construction and maintenance is also a major issue and we are calling on the Government to provide clear ten year plans for our major roads."

The RACT would like to thank Rosemary Armitage for raising this issue and establishing the road safety inquiry.