

Media release

Friday, 12 November 2021

RACT road safety warning on light bars

The RACT is warning motorists about the increasing use of high-strength LED light bars on vehicles.

RACT Chief Advocacy Officer, Garry Bailey, said that RACT members have raised serious concerns about how these lights are being fitted to cars.

"Increasingly, we are seeing more high-powered lights being fitted to many vehicles," Mr Bailey said.

"While they may be useful for driving off-road, we are receiving reports that motorists are virtually driving blind when passing a vehicle with an active light bar.

"The new generation of light bars are often equipped with LED lights, which are extremely bright and have resulted in an increase in complaints from our members, especially in the north of the State.

"While light bars are not illegal, there are clear rules about how they can be used.

"Tasmanian Road Rules prevent the use of driving lights or high beams when you are less than 200 metres behind or less than 200 metres from any oncoming vehicle, or to dazzle another road user or in a way that is likely to dazzle another road user.

"The other issue is that some light bars may not be fitted in accordance with the regulations, with some fitted in a position that is dangerous or fitted above the bonnet line.

"While the rules are clear, we are also asking people to use common sense and show other motorists a basic level of courtesy. Regardless of whether you have a light bar or not, for goodness sake, just dim your lights when passing another vehicle. It's not that much to ask for and it could help avoid more accidents and fatalities on our roads."