

Media release

Monday, 20 December 2021

Stay safe on the roads this Christmas

As Tasmanians prepare to visit family and loved ones across the state this Christmas, RACT is calling on motorists to stay safe and survive the drive.

RACT's Chief Advocacy Officer, Garry Bailey, said there are some common problems that motorists should look out for before setting off for the summer break.

"While it's easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of Christmas, there's nothing more important than arriving safely and with a few basic checks you can help make sure you and your family arrive safely," Mr Bailey said.

"Over the last few years, we've found a number of trends while conducting safety checks. Of the vehicles checked by the RACT:

- 30 per cent required a light to be replaced
- 24 per cent required a top up of oil or other fluids
- 20 per cent of vehicles had batteries that needed attention
- 19 per cent had either underinflated or worn tyres
- 14 per cent had issues relating to seatbelts and/or child restraints
- 13 per cent required new wiper blades

"These problems are all relatively easy to fix, but if you don't pick them up early, they can lead to significant problems and potentially contribute to serious crashes or even fatalities.

"We'd encourage people to also check the lights, tyres and wheel bearings on their trailers or caravan, their trailers and caravans too, especially if its been sitting idle since last summer.

"We are also calling on drivers to avoid the fatal five while on our roads – speed, inattention, seatbelts, fatigue and drink/drug driving."

RACT's top car safety checks before hitting the road this Christmas:

- **Check your oil and coolant**
- **Check your brakes**
- **Check your lights**
- **Check your tyre tread**

- **Check your tyre pressure**
- **Check your caravan or trailer lights, tyres and wheel bearings**
- **Check your windscreen washer level**