



Media release

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Tasmania's time to shine on road safety

Automated speed enforcement, increased road maintenance budgets and a focus on transport innovation are at the top of the RACT's wish-list.

Tasmania's peak motoring body launched its 2022 budget submission today, recognising that everyone – from government to road-user – has a responsibility to keep people safe on the roads.

RACT Chief Advocacy Officer Garry Bailey said there has never been a better time to set new benchmarks and make Tasmanian roads the safest in the nation.

"Tasmanians want to be safe on our roads. They want better, safer roads, better driver education and better enforcement of the rules," Mr Bailey said.

"As we emerge from the COVID pandemic, where keeping Tasmanians safe was paramount, we are calling on Government to extend this momentum to where it's needed most – the state's roads.

"Tasmania has the worst road safety record of any state but, if all Tasmanians and all levels of government strive to look after each other on our roads and support the evidence-based initiatives to achieve that, we can be nation-leading.

"The RACT, on behalf of its 210,000 members from whom we advocate, is urging Government to do things differently, through both its submission to the Legislative Council Select Committee on Road Safety and its 38 recommendations and also in its State Budget submission.

"Already there are steps in the right direction by the State Government in renewing Tasmania's mobile speed camera network with eight new cameras, improving driver training, making our major highways safer.

"But the RACT, wants the State Government to do much more.

"We should directly fund automated speed enforcement using the fines from the network. This will ensure we keep pace with the technology that is now detecting mobile phone use and seatbelt use in other states and to bring our fleet of mobile cameras up to 16.

"As speed is the biggest killer on our roads, we need to safety-rate Tasmania's entire road network – state and council roads – to ensure speed limits are consistent with the physical limitations of those roads.

“We need to ensure road safety is an essential element in workplace health and safety regimes across the public and private sector.

“We need an expanded maintenance budget for both state and local government roads to ensure our roads remain safe. That’s a Civil Construction Federation call the RACT strongly endorses.

“This Budget should also prepare for the long-term challenges in the way we all get around in the decade. It will be a time of rapid innovation in transport as the electric vehicle revolution gathers pace.”