



**Media release**  
**Tuesday, 17 May 2022**

**'Slow down, move over' legislation a big win for  
roadside workers' safety**  
*National Road Safety Week*

The RACT has welcomed today's announcement by Deputy Premier Michael Ferguson that roadside patrol workers will be included in slow down for emergency vehicles legislation. The announcement comes following a review of legislation protecting only emergency services vehicles, which was introduced in 2019.

RACT CEO Mark Mugnaioni said the review was a big win for roadside workers, thanking the State Government and Road Safety Advisory Council for taking the RACT's submissions on board during the review of legislation.

"The RACT has been calling for the inclusion of the flashing amber lights of Roadside Assist vans and tow trucks to be covered by this legislation and we thank the Road Safety Advisory Council and the Government for listening to our concerns," Mr Mugnaioni said.

"RACT patrols and tow truck drivers have the same right to safety as anyone who calls the road their workplace, and it's reassuring to know they will now be afforded the same safety benefits as emergency police and ambulance vehicles.

Mr Mugnaioni said the evidence shows these workers experience the same risks as emergency services workers, regularly reporting near misses and dangerous situations at the roadside.

"RACT Roadside Assist workers attended 12,200 breakdown callouts to roadside locations where the speed limit was 90km/h and above in 2019-20, indicating they are exposed to high-risk situations every day," he said.

Under the new legislation to include RACT Roadside Assist workers, drivers will need to slow to 40kmh an hour when they see the flashing amber lights on the roadside.

“The latest survey of RACT Roadside patrols found 75% experienced a near miss in the previous 12 months, with 60% of those experiencing more than one near miss.

“Anecdotal evidence also suggests that drivers/riders are often distracted when there is a road incident or breakdown.

“While our Roadside Assist workers are provided with extensive risk assessment and training aimed at working safely at the roadside, they cannot control where a vehicle will break down, can’t set up signage and speed limit reductions and they don’t have red and blue flashing lights.

“This legislation is a big step in the right direction to a safer work environment for everyone who works by the road, and will help reduce near misses, injuries and fatalities.

“And, of course, it also protects RACT members as they wait beside the road while our skilled and dedicated staff work to get them going again.”