

Media release
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**Joint Federal-State response needed to tackle
Tasmanian road trauma**

Tasmania needs a joint Federal-State response to tackle the state's appalling rate of road trauma, the RACT said today.

"The new Federal Labor Government has the opportunity to reset the road safety agenda – and the best way forward is with the co-operation of the states," RACT Chief Advocacy Officer Garry Bailey said.

The RACT today backed the call by the Australian Automobile Association for the Commonwealth Government to urgently improve national road safety management and co-ordination.

Mr Bailey said Tasmania had the opportunity to lead the way in Federal-State co-operation as it has the greatest challenges as the state with the worst road safety record.

In the 12 months to August 30 this year 50 people lost their lives on Tasmanian roads – a 42.9 per cent increase from the previous 12 months and the highest increase in Australia.

The RACT is heartened by the fact that Tasmanian Senator Carol Brown has responsibility for road safety and that State Transport Minister Michael Ferguson has previously raised concerns with Canberra about the National Road Safety Plan.

"Senator Brown has already publicly voiced her deep concerns about the level of road trauma in Tasmania since taking on her portfolio," Mr Bailey said.

"We hope that focus will translate into real action to address the inadequacies in the national road safety strategy and plan.

"The RACT addressed these inadequacies in its submission to the Legislative Council Select Committee on Road Safety in Tasmania and raised the issues with the State Government late last year.

"Tasmania stands on the edge of significant gains through clear and coordinated action by governments.

“For example, a national data-driven response to road trauma gives us the tools to better respond to the challenge and to allocate financial and human resources in infrastructure, enforcement, deterrence and education to where they will have the greatest impact.

“These can drive Tasmania’s road safety strategy and action plan to be best practice, an ambition the RACT and the State Government share, and should collaborate on.

“The State Government is already rolling out new automated enforcement technology and there is an increased police presence on our roads.

“There is also a thorough review of the State’s Road Safety Action Plan, and the Government has heard the voices of Tasmanians through the recent road safety forums conducted by the Road Safety Advisory Council.

“A partnership with a Federal Government through a Tasmanian-based federal minister who already recognises the challenges will be another step forward in tackling the ongoing tragedy on our roads.”