

Media release
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New speed cameras a welcome first step to addressing Tasmania's appalling road safety record

The launch of eight new automated enforcement cameras should be just the first step in turning around Tasmania's appalling road safety record, the RACT said today.

"Eight is a good start after a decade where this important enforcement, deterrence and education initiative has been missing from our roads," RACT Chief Advocacy Officer Garry Bailey said.

"There will be a further eight in the second stage of the rollout, but the RACT believes that to be really effective we need to see the network doubled to at least 32 units around the state.

"We also want to see the revenue from fines used to maintain and expand the network – as happens in every other state.

"That's a simple proposition – the offenders pay for the system, not the law-abiding drivers.

"And being law-abiding is an equally simple proposition – don't exceed the speed limit.

"With Tasmania Police data showing that 20,508 tickets were issued to drivers for exceeding the speed limit by 15-29 km/h in the 12 months to May this year, clearly we have a problem.

"Tasmanians need to ask themselves whether they are comfortable sharing our roads with those drivers, who are risking not just their lives but the lives of innocent, law-abiding drivers."

"If Tasmanians want to be safe on our roads, they need to support any initiative that cracks down on this arrogant disregard for the law and for others.

"The RACT has advocated long and hard for this initiative and congratulates Transport Minister Michael Ferguson on ensuring automated enforcement is once again a key part of the road safety plan in the years ahead."

Mr Bailey said the increased police presence on our roads, the new Highway Patrol, the decision to stop handing out warnings to offending drivers, and an increased focus on managing speed on state roads, were all important steps in reducing road trauma.