



Media release 27 October 2022

RACT welcomes Road Safety in Tasmania report, calls for urgent action

The RACT has welcomed the final report handed down by the Legislative Council Select Committee report on Road Safety in Tasmania, calling for urgent action in implementing its findings and addressing Tasmania's road safety woes.

"Tasmania is the state with the nation's worst road safety record – the Legislative Council Select Committee report on Road Safety in Tasmania is the blueprint that can make us the best-performing state in Australia," said RACT Group CEO Mark Mugnaioni.

"So far this year 47 people have died on Tasmanian roads and 214 have been injured. That's a legacy no Parliament, no government, no local government authority – all of whom have the responsibility for the health and wellbeing of their citizens – want to leave.

"Now is the time for action. Now is the time for our Parliament – not just our Government – to leave a road safety legacy they can be proud of, not ashamed of.

"It can do that by ensuring this report with its 94 findings and 49 recommendations remains the driving force for change – not just another tome consigned to a basement shelf.

"That requires the support not just of every member of the Tasmanian Parliament, and every elected official in local government, but every Tasmanian.

"It requires commitment from every Government department and government business enterprise.

"The evidence gathered by this inquiry is clear and compelling – as it has always been for so many of the road safety initiatives the RACT and many other road-safety advocates have consistently called for.

"The report also reinforces what RACT members have been telling us for years through our regular surveys – we need more enforcement, better driver training, speed limits appropriate to road conditions, just to name a few.

"In fact the RACT's new panels established to deepen our advice from members just this month reinforced again that they are their top road safety concerns.

"We thank Rosemary Armitage MLC for her tremendous work in establishing and chairing this committee, as well as Tania Rattray and Josh Willie for their roles as members."

Mr Mugnaioni said the State Government, supported by the Parliament, can act now by:

- Bringing the best technology to bear on enforcement, deterrence, and education on our roads.
- Directing fines revenue back into road safety.
- Rolling out road safety education in all our schools – not just to those who request it.
- Embedding the tried and tested Safe Systems design elements in every road project.
- Setting speed limits appropriate to road conditions and apply that consistently across state and council roads.
- Having a road safety regime as part of workplace health and safety in every business.

“After a decade of neglect Tasmania has the first stage of that automated enforcement on our roads – eight mobile cameras – but we need more,” he said.

“The State Government has committed to 16 mobile automated enforcement cameras by next year – we say that thirty-two cameras, using the full suite of technology, is the minimum required.

“We also strongly urge the Government to use the revenue from the camera network to maintain and expand it.

“The Government – and the Parliament – must commit to every recommendation from the committee – many of which are RACT recommendations.

“The RACT is heartened by the strong support for mobile automated enforcement technology from the Labor Party and the Greens.

“We urge them to extend that support to every road safety initiative that arises from the Select Committee report and not let it gather dust as the previous report did 10 years ago.

“We can assure every elected member – of State Parliament and of every Tasmanian council – that the RACT will keep its 210,000 members fully informed of the support this landmark report receives from their elected representatives.

“Already the voice of our members is clear from our surveys.

“They support automated speed enforcement.

“They support revenue from the network being used to maintain and expand the network.

“They support better driver training.

“They want safer roads.

“They want to get home safely.

“They want action.

“Now is the time to deliver it.”