



Media release 25 November 2022

RACT pleads with Tasmanians for change as road toll reaches tragic milestone

The RACT has pleaded with Tasmanians to do more to reduce the rate of death and serious injury on the state's roads, after the 2022 road toll tragically reached 50 fatalities.

This year's toll is the highest since 2009, when 63 people died on Tasmanian roads.

RACT Chief Advocacy Officer Garry Bailey said the tragic milestone continued a worrying trend of rising annual fatalities on Tasmanian roads, pleading for more to be done to reverse the trajectory.

"Just one death on our roads is one too many. 50 in a year is a tragic," Mr Bailey said.

"Tasmania has the worst road safety record in Australia, and if we don't take urgent and significant action, the sad and frankly scary reality is that this unenviable position will never change.

"The state's road-toll trajectory has been slowly on the rise for a number of years now.

"Over that time, car safety has improved, enforcement technology has improved and our ability to build and maintain roads has improved – which begs the question, why is our road toll continuing to worsen?

"Road safety is everyone's responsibility, and it's clear a dramatic shift in thinking is needed from every road safety stakeholder, from road-user to Government.

"Our hearts go out to the families who have lost their loved ones, but simply thinking of them isn't enough.

"As a state, we all need to do more to make sure Tasmanian lives aren't more at risk than any Australian when we get behind the wheel."

Mr Bailey said the recent Legislative Council Select Committee report on Road Safety in Tasmania held some of the answers needed to address the state's road-safety woes.

"While there's no silver bullet, a good starting point would be to urgently implement the 49 recommendations of the Legislative Council Select Committee report on Road Safety in Tasmania," he said.

"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.

“The RACT is committed to holding all levels of government to account for implementing real change off the back of this important report”

RACT’s road-safety roadmap to reverse worsening death rates:

- 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.

All 49 recommendations from the Select Committee report on Road Safety in Tasmania can be found here:

[https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/ctee/council/Reports/Inquiry%20into%20Road%20Safety%20in%20Tasmania%20\(No.31%20of%202022\)%20-%20FINAL.pdf](https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/ctee/council/Reports/Inquiry%20into%20Road%20Safety%20in%20Tasmania%20(No.31%20of%202022)%20-%20FINAL.pdf)