



Media release

Wednesday, 20th November 2024

RACT here to support you when Tasmania happens

RACT urges Tasmanians to appreciate the state's wild inhabitants from a safe distance, with the reassurance that their insurance cover may protect you against certain events involving wildlife.

'When Tasmania Happens' is a new campaign rolling out across billboards, television, digital, and print that highlights the uniquely Tasmanian challenges that can come from living in our amazing state.

While it is a humorous take on the many types of accidents and events that RACT has you covered for, it is also an opportunity to spread an important message about caring for our amazing wildlife.

RACT's Chief Experience Officer, Karla Wasinski, said it was important to respect wildlife and follow the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas) guidelines in any interactions with animals.

"Just like our weather, we know that Tasmanian wildlife can be unpredictable, and our insurance may cover you for any unexpected damage," Ms Wasinski said.

"We are all part of the island on which we live; the weather, the landscape, the wildlife all make it unique. It's nice to know that RACT insurance covers some of our unique situations.

The campaign launch coincides with the expected reappearance of Southern elephant seals in Tasmanian waters and coastal areas.

"Unlike Finn, the computer generated seal used in our campaign, real seals can inadvertently cause significant damage to cars, fences, and outdoor furniture – making RACT's insurance both timely and practical for residents," she said.

NRE Tas advises the public to keep their distance from wild seals and other animals.

"We are fortunate in Tasmania to have such amazing wildlife right on our doorstep and it's important we respect these animals and learn to live alongside them," NRE Tas wildlife biologist Sam Thalmann said.

"Seals hauling out along our coastline to moult or rest is normal behaviour.

"We love that people are curious about seals but it is important these animals maintain their wild behaviours to thrive into the future so they should be left alone to rest until they return to sea."

NRE Tas recommends a few simple steps to help ensure safe and respectful interactions with local wildlife:

- Keep a safe distance from any seals you may encounter. Do not approach closer than 20 metres as you may endanger both you and the animal.
- If a seal is near your home or vehicle, do not attempt to move it. Instead, contact NRE Tas' Marine Mammal Hotline for guidance.
- Avoid posting the seal's location on social media, as this can attract crowds that may stress the animal and increase the risk of property damage.

For more information on staying safe around wildlife and protecting your property, visit NRE Tas' website.

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