

Media release
Wednesday, 14 May 2025
**RACT urges motorists to slow down and protect
roadside workers**

RACT is asking all Tasmanians to make safer choices on our roads, especially when it comes to protecting the lives of roadside assistance teams and emergency service workers.

Speaking at a National Road Safety Week (NRSW) event today, RACT highlighted the risks faced by those working on the roadside to keep motorists safe.

General Manager Advocacy and Government Relations Mel Percival said today's national theme—*"Get home from work safe"*—highlights the importance of ensuring every worker returns home safely at the end of the day.

"Our statewide roadside workers are often in vulnerable and dangerous situations, as we help people with vehicle issues.

"They are only one group of the many Tasmanians that work on and around our roads including road-work crews, emergency services and heavy vehicle maintenance workers.

"We all need to do our part by slowing down, to keep them safe," Ms Percival said.

"National Road Safety Week gives us the opportunity to reflect on the devastating impact road trauma has on individuals, families and communities—but it also reminds us of our responsibility to help prevent it.

"RACT has nearly 70 roadside patrols and tow trucks across Tasmania, responding to an average of 181 roadside assistance calls every day," she said.

While there have been no crashes involving RACT vehicles on the roadside this year, patrol and tow truck teams regularly report near misses.

Ms Percival said the risk remains constant due to motorists failing to slow down when passing incidents.

"This is their workplace, imagine someone speeding through yours," she said.

"We urge all drivers to slow down and move over to give our teams—and all road workers and emergency responders—the space they need to do their jobs safely."

Under Tasmanian road rule 79A, drivers must slow down when approaching emergency or roadside assist vehicles with red, blue, magenta, or yellow lights flashing or sirens sounding.

Ms Percival said every time a driver ignores this rule, they put lives at risk.

"National Road Safety Week is an essential reminder for all of us to take that responsibility seriously and play our part in protecting those who protect us."

RACT continues to advocate for safer roads and encourages all Tasmanians to engage in conversations about road safety and commit to making safer choices—every journey, every day.

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