

Media release Thursday, 15 April 2021

RACT releases road safety election priorities

Speed camera fines should fund the latest technology to detect mobile phone use and speeding by Tasmanian drivers, the RACT has urged.

“Distraction and speeding are emerging as major road safety challenges – and are widely recognised and condemned by Tasmanian drivers,” RACT Chief Advocacy Officer Garry Bailey said.

“Other states are rolling out the latest mobile phone detection and speeding technology to make their roads safer, but Tasmania is lagging behind,” Mr Bailey said.

“The next State Government should act immediately on two fronts: roll out this new enforcement technology and provide long-term funding for the program with revenue from these cameras.”

In 2020-21, traffic policing is expected to reap \$21.5 million. However, Tasmania is the only state that does not reinvest this fine revenue into road safety initiatives, instead channelling it into general government revenue.

“Other states see millions of dollars being invested from enforcement revenue into road safety programs,” Mr Bailey said.

“We want to see the same thing in Tasmania, starting with the rollout of these enforcement technologies.

“Our proposition is a simple one – the law breakers would fund the system.

“This approach must have tri-partisan support in the next Parliament, as should any proven road safety initiative.”

NSW rolled out a mobile phone detection pilot program from January to June 2019 and detected 100,000 drivers using phones illegally.

In a community survey before the cameras were introduced 74% of people supported their use. A year later, when the results of the pilot program were revealed that support rose to 80% and it was maintained in a 2020 survey.

“We need this technology in Tasmania with cameras numbers sufficient to be effective and a funding regime to support them,” Mr Bailey said.

Mr Bailey also noted that the Road Safety Levy, paid as part of vehicle registration should remain as the source of funding for road safety infrastructure improvements, particularly for local government.

“The original intention was that 75% of the levy be for infrastructure and that should remain.”