



Media release
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RACT releases road infrastructure election priorities

Tasmania's biggest member organisation, the RACT, has today called for a new plan to deliver better, safer roads.

"The message from our more than 207,000 members is that our roads are not good enough and not safe enough," RACT Group CEO Mark Mugnaioni said today when unveiling the first of several election priorities for the organisation.

"This shouldn't be news to any candidate seeking election on 1 May as this has been RACT's consistent message to government.

"But the promises and the plan fall short of what Tasmania's 414,985 licensed drivers expect. In each of Tasmania's five electorates, road quality and road safety are top order-issues for our members.

"What Tasmania needs is a series of 10-year plans for all our major highways, as we have for the Midland Highway.

"Those plans must include best-practice road design, long-term demographic projections, the integration of new safety technologies, and detail on how we measure the impact of safety improvements on these arterial routes.

"The Midland Highway is an example of what we can achieve in terms of improved safety and in terms of rollout with a 10-year, fully funded program.

"It is now, in large stretches, a safer highway.

"The Bass Highway, however, doesn't have a clear and holistic 10-year plan.

Mr Mugnaioni said the next state government must have a new focus on how the state's biggest road manager – local government – is supported to maintain their 14,000 kilometres of roads.

There was already recognition in Tasmania's Towards Zero Action Plan 2017-2026 of the role of our 29 councils with increased road safety levy funding to improve safety on local roads.

And there was a recognition nationally, in the draft National Road Safety Strategy, that local government is key to meeting our road safety targets.

"That recognition must come with not just targeting funding but building the capacity of our councils to deliver measurably safer roads," Mr Mugnaioni said.

“Local roads are vital to regional economies for the movement of goods and services and for tourism, but local councils have a heavy burden to carry in terms of long-term maintenance to keep these arterials well maintained and safe for all road users.”

RACT’s Safe Roads Policy is online at:

<https://www.ract.com.au/-/media/project/ract-group/ract/ract-website/community/advocating-change/ract-advocacy-policies/new-template/ract-safe-roads-policy.pdf>