



1 August 2020

## **Lower road deaths welcome, but still too many deaths on our roads**

Despite recording a decrease in deaths in the 12 months to 30 June, Tasmania's road-toll trend continues to lag behind the agreed National Road Safety Strategy baseline according to the latest Australian Automobile Association annual benchmarking report.

During that period 30 people died on Tasmanian roads, compared to 32 deaths in the previous year, a decrease of 6.3 per cent.

However, with lower traffic volumes experienced through the COVID lockdown period, RACT Chief Member Experience Officer Stacey Pennicott said the figures showed more work needed to be done to make Tasmanian roads safer for all.

"While a lower fatality rate is always a good outcome, we are concerned that this is not a sustainable, long term decrease," Ms Pennicott said.

"It is likely Tasmania's decrease can be attributed to lower traffic volumes, with most other states also recording decreases which cannot readily be attributed to any new road safety policy settings.

"Instead, we know that during the period between March and May people stayed home to protect lives during the pandemic.

"Protecting lives on the road is equally important, and a lot more work needs to be done to make Tasmania's roads safer for all.

"Tasmania's road toll had a poor start to the year and tragically we have seen a number of fatal incidents across the state over the past few weeks.

"Safe Systems principles, which involve a holistic view of the road transport system and its users and guide the National Road Safety Strategy, remain as important as they ever have.

"A combined and co-ordinated focus on safer roads, safer speeds, safer drivers and safer vehicles must continue to be a priority for all levels of government to see Tasmania meet agreed targets."