



15 November 2019  
Media Release No. 31

## **Australia's Best Cars revealed**

Tasmanians wanting to buy a new vehicle will benefit from the expertise of a panel of eight judges from auto clubs across the country with the announcement of Australia's Best Cars today.

The national awards program, co-judged by the RACT's General Manager Mobility Services Darren Moody, is the largest independent new car assessment and awards program in Australia.

It puts more than 180 vehicles through their paces each year against criteria such as Value for Money, Design and Function and On the Road Performance.

"Australia's Best Cars is a rigorous and independent review of the important aspects of new cars in the Australian market," Mr Moody said.

"The program helps give Australian motorists the information they need when they are considering which car is the right one for them."

The field was narrowed to 47 finalists, which were tested back-to-back by the experienced judges across 13 categories and evaluated against 21 criteria.

Mr Moody said Toyota was a big winner this year, winning five categories.

"Toyota's ever-popular Corolla won a category for the first time," he said.

"This was because it launched and updated several new cars in 2019, the price difference to for a hybrid drivetrain reduced, a new five-year warranty (introduced 1 January) and continued to focus on improving vehicle safety and convenience features."

Although SUVs were covered in four categories, they made up 40 per cent of total vehicles assessed in this year's program, reflecting the buying choices of the Australian public.

Mr Moody said electric cars moved closer to the front of the pack compared to any other year, with the Hyundai Kona Electric and Hyundai IONIQ Electric both finalists for 2019.

Mr Moody said buying a new car was a big decision, so it was important that consumers had access to as much relevant information as possible to make the best decision.

“We aim to take the guess work out of finding the best vehicle in a category for a consumer, and also influence the new car market by challenging manufacturers to further improve safety, performance and affordability,” he said.

“Overall vehicle affordability remains high with manufacturers offering longer warranties, fixed price or included servicing and excellent standard and safety features, even in base models”

### **List of winners**

**Light:** Kia Picanto (not awarded as it doesn't meet minimum 5-Star ANCAP criteria)

**Small Under \$35k:** Toyota Corolla

**Small Over \$35k:** Mercedes Benz A class

**Medium Under \$65k:** Toyota Camry Ascent Sport Hybrid

**Medium Prestige over \$65k:** BMW Series 3

**Family Wagon:** Mazda CX-8

**Sports Under \$62k:** Hyundai i30 N Performance

**Sports \$62k- \$125k:** Toyota Supra GTS

**Small SUV under \$40k:** Kia Seltos Sport FWD

**AWD SUV under \$55k:** Toyota RAV4 GXL AWD Hybrid

**AWD SUV \$55k - \$70k:** Hyundai Santa Fe Highlander

**AWD SUV \$70k - \$125k:** Volkswagen Touareg Launch Edition

**4x4 dual cab ute:** Toyota Hilux SR5

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