



MEDIA RELEASE

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Stay safe on the roads this Christmas

As Tasmanians prepare to visit family and loved ones across the state this Christmas, RACT is calling on motorists to stay safe and survive the drive, with a helping voice from Hobart Hurricanes mascot Captain Hurricane.

RACT's Chief Member Experience Officer Stacey Pennicott said that there are a number of common problems that motorists should look out for before setting out on the roads.

"While it's easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of festive cheer, there's nothing more important than arriving safely so it's vital that people check their vehicles before heading out to enjoy a weekend with family and friends," Ms Pennicott said.

"Over the last three years, we've found a number of key trends while conducting safety checks. Of the vehicles checked:

- 30 per cent required a light to be replaced
- 24 per cent required a top up of oil or other fluids
- 20 per cent of vehicles had batteries that needed attention
- 19 per cent had either underinflated or worn tyres
- 14 per cent had issues relating to seatbelts and/or child restraints
- 13 per cent required new wiper blades

"These problems are all relatively easy to fix, but if you don't pick them up early they can lead to significant problems and potentially contribute to serious crashes or even fatalities. With many families holidaying at home in Tasmania this year set to add significant traffic volume to our roads, motorists need to be extra vigilant.

"Another thing to be mindful of on holidays is the maintenance and safety of any towed trailer or caravan. These vehicles can often be left idle for months of the year, so checking your lights, tyres and wheel bearings before you leave is the best way to avoid having your holiday derailed before you arrive at your destination.

"We are also calling on drivers to avoid the fatal five while on our roads – speed, inattention, seatbelts, fatigue and drink/drug driving."

RACT's top car safety checks before hitting the road this Christmas:

- **Check your oil and coolant**
- **Check your brakes**
- **Check your lights**
- **Check your tyre tread**
- **Check your tyre pressure**
- **Check your caravan or trailer lights, tyres and wheel bearings**
- **Check your windscreen washer level**