



Strictly embargoed to 12am Saturday 8 February 2020

8 February 2020

Call for more road safety funding

RACT is calling for more funding for road safety programs and infrastructure upgrades in the wake of a horror month on Tasmania's roads.

While the Christmas/New Year holiday period was fatality free, there were six road deaths in January.

"If you compare this to the 2019 road toll this is well above average and highlights that we can't become complacent about road safety," RACT Executive General Manager, Membership and Community, Stacey Pennicott said.

"We need urgent action to increase awareness amongst drivers of unsafe behaviours on our roads, as well as vital infrastructure upgrades to make our roads safer."

The Australian Automobile Association (AAA), of which RACT is a member, today released its quarterly [benchmarking report](#) into the National Road Safety Strategy.

The report showed that nationally, there was a 4.7% increase in road deaths in the 12 months to December 2019 compared to the previous year.

"For the same period in Tasmania, there were 32 deaths on our roads compared to 33 for the previous year," Ms Pennicott said.

"We are not seeing the level of improvement we would like to see, and we are nowhere near meeting the reduction in deaths that the National Road Safety Strategy is aiming for.

"It is clear that the target of a 30% reduction in road deaths and serious injuries will not be achieved, so we are asking the government to take action now to address the issue.

"We know that in the coming months the state and federal ministers will be setting the road safety strategy for 2020 and beyond.

"We want to ensure that this process sets out aggressive targets and benchmarks and is a genuine platform to stop the devastating effects of losing lives on our roads."

Earlier this week RACT revealed its [scorecard](#) rating progress on its key road funding priorities against expectations.

“What the scorecard reveals is that there are some areas of the state where we’ve been calling for road safety upgrades for some time, but there has been limited progress on the actual work being done,” Ms Pennicott said.

“While its pleasing to see funding allocated for these upgrades, what we want to see is timelines on when the work will begin.”

Ms Pennicott said that the fact that the Christmas/New Year period was fatality-free – when there was a heightened police presence and awareness campaign of unsafe driving behaviours – indicated that more funding was needed for road safety messages and a highly visible police presence enforcement year-round.