



MEDIA RELEASE

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RACT member survey reveals Tassie's worst roads

RACT members are calling for major investments into Tasmania's worst roads.

RACT's Chief Member Experience Officer, Stacey Pennicott, said 200,000 members were invited to have their say on Tasmania's roads.

"We asked our 200,000 members to tell us what roads weren't up to scratch and the results were clear," Ms Pennicott said.

"The Tasman Highway is by far Tasmania's worst road, according to our members with nearly 40 per cent of those responding saying it needs urgent upgrades.

"The Tasman Highway runs for 410 kilometres between Launceston and Hobart, covering the north-east, east coast and Hobart's eastern shore. As visitor numbers begin to pick up and as the population served by the Tasman continues to grow, this Highway is going to become more and more important. Unfortunately, it has not received anywhere near the investment required to keep up with demand.

Ms Pennicott said that the Midland Highway was rated Tasmania's second worst road, with a third of RACT members surveyed saying more needs to be done.

"We have seen significant upgrades on the Midland Highway in recent years and the State and Federal Governments deserve credit for that. However, there is still a lot of work to be done to bring the full length of the Highway up to scratch.

"Hobart's Southern Outlet was ranked as Tasmania's third worst road due to persistent problems with delays. We encourage the Government to get on with its plans to improve access by developing park and ride facilities in Kingston to take the pressure off and help avoid the daily bottlenecks at peak times.

"The Channel Highway and Bass Highway were flagged as needing significant investment by a quarter of the members surveyed, while 20 per cent of members raised the condition of the Arthur Highway and Huon Highway in the south and the West Tamar Highway in the north as significant concerns."

Ms Pennicott said there was a clear way forward to improve Tasmania's highways.

“Each of Tasmania’s major highways needs a clear, detailed 10 year improvement plan. The plan would outline what upgrades were needed, when they are needed and, importantly, how they will be funded. Long term plans would also help our construction sector ensure they have the workforce and the capacity to deliver the projects. Importantly, it would ensure the community understands what the challenges are and how the Government is going to fix them.

“After a horror year on our roads in 2020, the RACT’s focus in 2021 will be road safety. One of the ways to tackle the road safety challenge is to make sure our roads are up to scratch. According to our members, they’re clearly not.”

TASMANIA’S WORST ROADS, IN ORDER ARE –

1. Tasman Highway
2. Midland Highway
3. Southern Outlet- Hobart
4. Bass Highway
5. Channel Highway
6. Arthur Highway
7. Huon Highway
8. West Tamar Highway