



4 October 2020

RACT calls for Tasmania's fair share in Federal Budget

RACT is calling for Tasmania to receive a fair share of the Government's anticipated focus on infrastructure spending in this week's Federal Budget.

"It's vital Tasmania isn't left off the map when it comes to transport infrastructure spending in this year's Federal Budget," RACT Chief Member Experience Officer Stacey Pennicott said.

"Both State and Federal Governments have identified infrastructure investment to help stimulate and rebuild our economy post COVID, which is to be applauded.

"RACT has welcomed the significant funding committed to projects such as the Hobart Airport interchange and the Bridgewater Bridge, but more needs to be done to make sure Tasmanians have safer and more efficient ways to move around the state.

"While we were provided temporary relief as more people worked from home during COVID restrictions, congestion in both Hobart and Launceston is getting worse and will only continue to worsen if nothing is done.

"According to the Greater Hobart Travel Survey, the average Hobartian already spends 73 minutes a day in transit, with car travel accounting for 77 per cent of weekday trips, up from 74 per cent in 2010. If we are going to stop these travel times increasing further as Hobart continues to grow, we need to act now.

"Next week's Federal Budget needs to include funding for traffic busting measures for Tasmania's cities to increase public and active transport options.

"RACT has long been calling for these initiatives in our Greater Hobart and Launceston mobility plans, which if implemented will ensure Hobart and Launceston can continue to grow while maintaining the features which make these cities such great places to live.

"We're also calling for upgrades to increase the Bass Highway to a minimum AusRap 3-star rating to provide improved safety for those travelling along the north-west coast.

"With travel restrictions contributing to less tourists on the road, now is also the perfect time to commit to upgrade the Tasman Highway, particularly the stretches between Swansea and Bicheno and Eaglehawk Neck and Port Arthur.

"Not only will these upgrades provide much-needed safety improvements for locals and visitors alike, they will also help visitor-economy reliant businesses and communities in the areas the Tasman Highway services recover more quickly once travel restrictions are lifted."

RACT's key project wish list:

- **Bass Highway upgrades**
- **Tamar Bridge**
- **West Tamar Highway improvements**
- **De-congestion strategies for Hobart and Launceston**
- **Tasman Highway upgrades**