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### **Vehicle safety a 12-month commitment**

RACT is reminding motorists to keep their vehicles well-maintained and not risk their lives on the road.

Nearly half of vehicles checked in the north-west recently as part of free winter vehicle checks needed either new wiper blades or at least one new tyre.

Further, of the vehicles checked, 40% needed either a new battery, new lights or brake fluid, while nearly 20% required oil and 7% new seat belts.

RACT Community Manager Will Oakley said a well-maintained vehicle increased its safety on the road.

“The impact of worn tyres, faulty lights and brakes, and – very worryingly – seatbelts could be catastrophic on our roads,” he said.

“While Tasmania is in its last month of winter, we will still be experiencing low light and wet and icy road conditions for some time to come, so motorists still need to ensure their vehicle is well-maintained.

“You should regularly check your tyre tread and pressure, batteries, brakes, windscreens, wiper blades and fluid, headlights and brake lights, as well as engine oil, coolant and seatbelts.

“Service checks, by a qualified mechanic, will ensure your car is safe. This can save the need for costly repairs, as well as prevent injury.”

These reminders come in the middle of the RACT's Golden Rules of Road Safety campaign, aimed at reducing road deaths and serious injuries on the road.

One of the rules is “Check your tyres”.

The campaign involves students from three primary schools in the south, north and north-west discussing each of the 12 rules in a series of videos.

These videos are being posted on RACT's social media channels each week, with the students setting challenges for Tasmanians to abide by on the road.

The 12 Golden Rules were created by the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), the representative body for auto clubs across the globe, to address the 3500 lives lost on the world's roads each year.

In Tasmania, approximately 300 people are either seriously injured or killed on the state's roads each year.

The campaign will run until 30 September.

The 12 Golden Rules are:

- Never Drink and Drive
- Don't Text and Drive
- Always Pay Attention
- Slow Down for Kids
- Wear a Helmet
- Check Your Tyres
- Buckle Up
- Stop When You're Tired
- Stay Bright
- Obey the Speed Limit
- Use a Child Safety Seat
- Check Your Vision

Follow the campaign on RACT's social media channels @RACTOfficial and website at [www.ract.com.au/community/advocating-change/golden-rules](http://www.ract.com.au/community/advocating-change/golden-rules)

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