

RACT Policy #9 – Driver Licensing

Organisation	RACT
Business Unit	Road and Traffic Committee

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1	R&T	Board endorsed	February 2013	August 2015
2	R&T	R&T Committee reviewed	August 2015	August 2018

RACT POLICY

9 DRIVER LICENSING

9.1 NATIONAL UNIFORMITY

- a) RACT supports, in principle, a nationally uniform drivers' licence classification system.

9.2 NOVICE DRIVER GRADUATED LICENSING SYSTEM

- a) RACT supports a well-structured, graduated licensing scheme (GLS) for novice drivers as introduced in Tasmania in 2009 as a measure to counter the over-representation of young people under 25 years of age involved in serious and fatal crashes.
- b) RACT supports the current regulatory framework and would not support any further variation of novice drivers' licence regulations unless clear evidence-based research warrants it.

9.3 INTERSTATE AND OVERSEAS LICENCES

- a) The Tasmanian Government must ensure that appropriate checks, testing and balances are in place with respect to licensing interstate and international drivers to drive in Tasmania, including transfer of existing driving licences from other jurisdictions.

9.4 OLDER DRIVERS

- a) Public policy and regulations should allow older drivers to drive for as long as is safely and reasonably possible. Maintaining a driver's licence should be based on identifying the medical or functional impairment of some older drivers, rather than being based on arbitrary age limits.
- b) There should be no mandatory age-based on-road reassessment of older drivers.

9.5 FITNESS TO DRIVE

- a) The RACT believes there should be an extensive and continuing awareness program about the importance of self-assessment of driving capabilities, and medical issues which may impact on an individual's fitness to drive. This is irrespective of age.
- b) A provision in the regulations should be maintained for GPs, other professionals and family to refer older drivers for an "on-road driving reassessment" if doubt exists about safety in some circumstances (even if medically fit).
- c) The Tasmanian Government should invest funding to expand the provision of education programs for older drivers to support them in the ageing/driving process.
- d) The Tasmanian Government should produce an "Older Drivers Handbook" on an ongoing basis as part of this education support.