

RACT Policy #12 – Environment

Organisation	RACT
Business Unit	Road and Traffic Committee

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1	R&T	Board endorsed	February 2013	May 2016
2	R&T	R&T Committee reviewed	May 2016	May 2018

RACT POLICY

12 : ENVIRONMENT

12.1 SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

RACT recognises that motor vehicles contribute to environmental concerns and supports measures that achieve sustainable mobility with minimal impact on the environment.

12.2 GOVERNMENTS' CONTRIBUTION

- a) Governments should:
 - (i) when framing environmental policies such as emissions trading or carbon taxation, take a balanced approach that acknowledges the vital role transport plays in personal, social and economic terms;
 - (ii) suitably target those industry and business sectors that are the greatest contributors to environmental damage;
 - (iii) use urban planning, network design and intelligent transport systems (ITS) to avoid congestion and improve mobility;
 - (iv) buy more fuel efficient vehicles;
 - (v) support provision of consumer information and incentives to encourage the purchase of green vehicles and fuels and fuel efficient driving; and
 - (vi) introduce strict emissions and fuel efficiency standards for new motor vehicles.
- b) Measures to encourage use of alternatives to the car should be positive, not punitive.

12.3 MOTORING ORGANISATIONS' CONTRIBUTION

- a) RACT will, as its contribution to sustainable mobility for all:
 - (i) assist and encourage members to reduce and offset their greenhouse gas emissions;
 - (ii) minimise the emissions generated by the products and services we provide to our members;
 - (iii) participate with governments, industry and other Australian motoring organisations, to develop policies and initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
 - (iv) Support the adoption and promotion of electric vehicle technology in Tasmania; and
 - (v) Support the AAA's position that independent testing of vehicle emissions under real world driving conditions must be undertaken using Australian vehicles on Australian roads.

12.4 MOTORISTS' CONTRIBUTION

- a) RACT acknowledges that motorists can reduce their environmental impact through keeping their vehicles well maintained, making appropriate vehicle purchasing and usage decisions, and by using alternative forms of transport where they meet travel needs.
- b) Individual motorists should be encouraged to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases by:
 - (i) driving with the aim of reducing fuel consumption;
 - (ii) planning trips to reduce unnecessary vehicle use;
 - (iii) using alternative forms of transport for appropriate trips; and
 - (iv) considering car-pooling for commuter trips.

12.5 VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS' CONTRIBUTION

- a) Motor vehicle manufacturers should continue to invest in low carbon and cleaner automotive technologies.
- b) Any alternatives to the car need to be safe, reliable, affordable and efficient.
- c) There needs to be a global framework for automotive emission control, fuel quality, and fuel economy.

12.6 PUBLIC TRANSPORT

RACT acknowledges that efficient public transport systems can reduce greenhouse gases, however it is critical that any decision to invest in public transport projects and programs must demonstrate that the project will be an effective use of funding that generates increased passenger volumes and improved travel times.

12.7 TRAVEL MODES

- a) RACT supports the promotion of travel modes that reduce the level of reliance on the motor vehicle such as public transport, Park 'n' Ride facilities, car-pooling, cycling and walking.
 - b) Development of transport networks should take these alternatives into account while balancing considerations such as necessary vehicle usage, and personal safety.
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