

Minister for Finance
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing
Minister for Science and Technology
Leader of the House



30 AUG 2021

Pat Conaghan MP
Committee Chair
Joint Select Committee on Road Safety
Parliament of Australia
By email: road.safety.reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Conaghan

Thank you for your correspondence of 13 July 2021 advising of the Joint Select Committee on Road Safety and inviting the Tasmanian Government to make a submission.

For your information, the Tasmanian Legislative Council has recently appointed a Select Committee to inquire into road safety in Tasmania, with submissions closing 28 August 2021.

The Tasmanian Government strongly supports the best-practice Safe System approach to road safety.

The Tasmanian Government has a 10-year plan for improving road safety in Tasmania and launched the Towards Zero – Tasmanian Road Safety Strategy 2017-2026 (the Strategy) (Attachment 1) in December 2016. The Strategy has a short-term target of fewer than 200 deaths and serious injuries by 2026.

The Tasmanian Road Safety Advisory Council (RSAC) took a lead role in developing the 10-year Strategy, including facilitating community and stakeholder consultation, analysing potential measures and endorsing the key directions of the Strategy and associated action plans.

The second action plan under the Strategy, the Towards Zero Action Plan 2020-2024 (Attachment 2) details the Tasmanian Government's plans to invest more than \$75 million in road safety over the five year life of the Plan. This complements the Tasmanian and Australian Government's investment of \$1.5 billion on major state road construction projects to improve efficiency and safety on Tasmania's roads during the life of the Action Plan.

The Action Plan targets our highest risk road safety areas, deliberately focusing on those initiatives that will gain the greatest reductions in serious injuries and deaths.

The selection of initiatives and programs was informed by extensive community engagement, stakeholder consultations, and independent research and modelling.

The Action Plan utilises a thematic approach that succinctly communicates the priority road safety areas that the Government will focus on over the next five years. The key themes are:

- Making our rural roads safer
- Improving safety in our towns and cities
- Saving young lives
- Encouraging safer road use
- Making visitors safer, and
- Improving safety through vehicles and technology.

The Action Plan contains 42 specific measures to help bring down the road toll.

The Action Plan is progressively delivering proven road safety initiatives within available road safety levy funding.

In the Tasmanian context, improved infrastructure, lower default speed limits and increased levels of automated enforcement are the leading evidence based approaches to reducing road trauma.

\$20 million of Road Safety Levy funding over five years has been allocated to road safety infrastructure projects on rural roads where 60 per cent of fatalities occur.

Cost effective, mass action infrastructure treatments such as shoulder sealing, pavement markings, curve warnings, roadside hazard removal and safety barriers reduce the risk of run-off road and head-on crashes on high speed rural roads. These treatments are progressively being rolled out.

\$31 million of Road Safety Levy funding over five years is also allocated to improving safety in our towns and cities where one in four serious casualties are pedestrians and cyclists. This includes infrastructure upgrades to separate vehicle from vulnerable road users.

Policy changes to the Graduated Licensing System introduced on 1 December 2020 mean that Tasmania now meets the enhanced model under the national framework.

The current project to enhance automated speed enforcement is the highest priority project for RSAC and is well underway.

Yours sincerely

Michael Ferguson MP
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport