

Improving Road Safety for all Tasmanians

Building a Tasmania we
can all be proud of



Change
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future

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The Plan to rebuild essential services

The Liberals' long-term commitment to road safety

The Labor-Green Government's savage budget cuts are putting the safety of Tasmanians on the road at risk.

As a result of Labor and the Greens' budget cuts, Tasmania Police's May 2013 corporate performance report revealed that:

- Road safety policing fell by around 25 per cent across the board between July 2012 and June 2013;
- The number of speeding fines issued by Police fell by more than 16,000; and
- Disturbingly, the number of serious crashes increased by 17 per cent.

There was also a four per cent drop in statewide random breath tests in 2013 compared with 2012, and a 64 per cent drop in drug testing over the same period*.

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will implement a multi-faceted road safety program to target contemporary road safety challenges in an aggressive, effective and integrated manner.

Rebuilding police numbers – enforcement upgrade

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will **restore Tasmania Police to the levels in place before Labor and the Greens cut the frontline in 2011 (1228) by the end of our first term of Government.** Based on the current police numbers this will mean an extra 108 police on patrol with more police on our roads keeping Tasmanians safe by enforcing the road rules.

We will also work with Tasmania Police to increase the high-visibility presence of patrol vehicles on highways, particularly during the busiest periods.

Novice Driver Speed Limits

The current restriction on P1 provisional drivers, which prevents them from travelling over 80 kph on all Tasmanian roads, is dangerous for all other road users.

In particular, on a National Highway network where the speed limit is 110 kph, a P1 driver limited to 80 kph can have an alarming affect on a line of traffic approaching from behind at more than 30 kph faster, with other drivers sometimes resorting to excessive braking and performing risky overtaking manoeuvres.

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will implement the recommendation of the Tasmanian Legislative Council's Select Inquiry into Road Safety that P1 drivers be permitted to drive at 100 kph on roads with a 110 kph speed limit and 90 kph on roads limited to 100 kph, in line with other jurisdictions.

The Road Safety Advisory Council, along with DIER, will be tasked with the implementation of this new policy, following a review of driver training in Tasmania to meet this new policy objective.

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Novice Driver Licensing System

The Liberals are aware of significant community concerns regarding the graduated novice driver licensing system in Tasmania, particularly in relation to the L1 and L2 processes. Many Tasmanians are concerned that the system has delivered an unnecessarily protracted process which has had the effect of raising the average age of obtaining a P1 drivers licence to 20 years of age rather than 17-18 years.

These delays are impacting upon the ability of young Tasmanians needing a drivers licence to seek employment, education and social opportunities.

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will review the current system to identify unnecessary road blocks and promote a more efficient and positive experience for all novice learner drivers.

Sharing the Roads

The right to safe usage on our roads is shared equally by motorists, motorcyclists and cyclists.

It is crucial that all three groups are committed to each other's safety – a "them versus us" culture is unhelpful.

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will task the Road Safety Advisory Council to design a strong marketing campaign based on "Sharing the Road" principles which will promote stronger respect, and care between all road users.

With motorcyclists being over represented in Tasmania's serious crash statistics, a majority Hodgman Liberal Government will also ask the Road Safety Advisory Council to carry out a full review of motorcyclist training and safety programs, and have them assessed against best practice in other jurisdictions.

We will also refer the One Metre Rule legislative proposal to better protect cyclists to the Road Safety Advisory Council with the recommendation that a trial be considered if deemed to be practical, having regard to the specific nature of the Tasmanian road network.

New signage will also be developed for those Tasmanian roads popular with cyclists to warn motorists of heavy cyclist use in those areas. This will be funded from the Road Safety levy.

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Harnessing our Wonderful Volunteering Community in the Road Safety Task

There are hundreds of Tasmanian volunteers in all regions of the State who carry out driver mentoring assistance for learner drivers whose families cannot provide the long hours required to fulfil the log book obligations.

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide Driver Mentoring Tasmania with \$1.5 million over three years, funded by the Road Safety levy, to continue to carry out, and develop further, their exceptional volunteer work in 17 programs around Tasmania. These caring and committed volunteers make a significant contribution to safer roads in Tasmania by delivering learner drivers into the licensing system with genuinely completed log book hours.

We will also provide Rotary Tasmania with \$300,000 over four years to re-establish its Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) program which was cut by the Labor-Green Government.

Rotarians have given many hundreds of hours each year to organise and co-ordinate these learning programs in schools right across Tasmania.

This \$300,000 commitment will be funded from the Road Safety levy, and will attract significant co-funding from motoring and road safety organisations to deliver a strong driver awareness program, arranged and organised by volunteers, and presented by professionals to around 6,000 students per year.

* Tasmania Police statistics, as reported in *The Advocate*, page 10, 1 January 2014.

Costings

No cost – from within existing Departmental budget.