New Heavy Vehicle Safety Code Launched

Tasmania’s Heavy Vehicle Safety Code was recently launched to improve heavy vehicle safety, including reducing the number of heavy vehicle crashes, increasing awareness of heavy vehicle safety issues, minimising the risk of breaching transport laws and lowering fuel costs through travel planning and more efficient driving.

Heavy vehicle operators are encouraged to review what they are doing now, and to focus on one particular issue like Static Roll Threshold (SRT). The code not only addresses SRT but also provides advice on choosing appropriately designed vehicles to reduce rollovers and crashes.

Along with the code, the State Government is working towards implementing National Model Compliance and Enforcement legislation. The Heavy Vehicle Road Transport Bill, introduced to Parliament in 2008, is aimed at improving compliance with and accountability for road laws to enhance safety. Under the Bill, the responsibility for complying with road laws will fall on all parties in the transport chain and all those in the corporate chain of command. All parties in the road transport chain of responsibility will have obligations under the Bill to take positive and reasonable steps to ensure road laws are not being breached. Industry will be kept informed about the timing of implementation in 2009 and its obligations in relation to the legislation.
Guide to Road Transport Planning

The new Guide to Road Transport Planning is now available. The guide maps jurisdictional road transport planning processes with a particular focus on the road route/link level. It covers consultation with government authorities and other stakeholders, including surveys of all government agencies with a stake in road transport planning, and a review of relevant literature from Australia and overseas.

As transport planning approaches and processes for roads vary widely across jurisdictions, there is discussion about elements of good transport planning, current trends in transport planning, best practice principles to achieve environmentally and socially sustainable transport solutions e.g. land use and transport planning integration, multi-modal planning and public consultation processes. Significant recent changes towards strengthening the existing legal and institutional road transport planning framework and a number of developments, both internationally and in Australasia, are also examined.

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Safer Speeds Trial for Tasman

The Tasman municipality is the second Local Government region in Tasmania to introduce a Safer Speeds Trial as a road safety measure. The focus on speed and driving to the conditions, led to the introduction of the trial.

The Tasman Safer Speeds Trial (TSST) was launched in December 2008 by the Minister for Infrastructure, Graeme Sturges, when the first Tasman Community Road Safety Partnership was also formalised. “There are many positive benefits for a municipality such as Tasman - lower speeds are more tourist-friendly, there is less impact on the environment with reduced fuel consumption/carbon emission and improved survival rates for native animals like the Tasmanian Devil,” Mr Sturges said.

The Community Road Safety Partnership program encourages local communities to be proactive on road safety issues and the Tasman CRSP Working Group has focused on targeting the key areas of speed, tourist drivers, inattention and fatigue, drink driving and the safety of young drivers and cyclists.

Driver Training: Training programs are also available for experienced drivers including interactive scenario-based responsive driving programs. These venue-based driver education programs are conducted at our MST Training Facilities at Baskerville Park and Symmons Plains.

4WD Programs: Motor Safe Tasmania (MST) offers basic and advanced 4WD & recovery programs which are held over one to two days depending on client needs. Programs can lead to nationally recognised qualifications.

ATV Safety Programs: MST is now offering an ATV Safety Program. Conducted in a similar format to the 4WD programs at the Baskerville Training Facility, Programs can lead to nationally recognised qualifications.

OHS & Corporate Services: The Corporate Services training program involves crash investigation, incident reviews, driver assessment, coaching, counselling and remedial training, needs analysis, vehicle familiarisations and eco-driving.

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Councils Unite to Promote Road Safety

Three Southern Tasmanian councils have united to tackle road safety issues.

Infrastructure Minister Graeme Sturges officially launched the Road Safety South District Partnership between Hobart City, Huon Valley and Kingborough Councils. The initiative is operating under the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources’ successful Community Road Safety Partnerships (CRSP) program.

“While there have been individual projects which have united municipalities, Road Safety South is the first attempt by Tasmanian CRSP communities to formalise a joint approach to community road safety,” Mr Sturges said. “The Road Safety South district will focus on the key areas of speeding, driving to the conditions, drink driving and raising awareness of road safety.”

A new, variable message sign will be used to encourage safer speeds and driving to the conditions across the three municipalities. “These messages will complement the work of the Tasmanian Road Safety Strategy,” Mr Sturges said. ▼

For local road safety information, visit the Road Safety South website at www.roadsafetysouth.com.au.

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