

# Media Release

8 April 2021

## **Local government backs the RACT's call for local road safety investment**

When it comes to road safety, one death is one too many. The impacts of fatalities and serious injuries on individuals, families and local communities is devastating and widely felt. In Tasmania over 60% of fatalities occur in rural areas. Local government manages almost 80% of Tasmania's roads and we believe that no one should be seriously injured or killed as a result of their daily travel on our local roads.

Historically, many local roads were constructed in challenging environments due to Tasmania's diverse geography, often resulting in narrow, hilly and twisting roads. To address the number of deaths in our rural areas, significant investment in local roads with modern infrastructure improvements is needed to save lives.

This is why local government is seeking a commitment from the State Government for specific road corridor upgrades to support road safety improvements in rural and regional areas.

"Infrastructure improvements can help reduce the likelihood of road crashes in rural areas" LGAT President, Mayor Holmdahl said.

"To be most effective, complete road corridors need to be improved to provide a consistent road environment. This can be very expensive and in many cases because of the low traffic volumes on our rural roads, they don't attract funding support" Mayor Holmdahl continued.

This is why local government supports the key priority of the Royal Automobile Club of Tasmania (RACT) to fund the development and implementation of 10-year plans for improving Tasmania's worst roads.

"Local government and the RACT are hearing loudly from our communities that it is not ok for local communities to continue to suffer from road crashes on rural roads. We need State Government investment in local roads to save lives" Mayor Holmdahl said.

Ends.

**Media Enquiries: LGAT President, Mayor Christina Holmdahl, 0417804210**