

Media statement

8 November 2020

How safe is the car you're buying?

Everyone makes mistakes when they're driving and some can end in death and serious injury, Road Safety Advisory Council Chair Garry Bailey said today.

“Vehicle safety has improved markedly over the decades, but in the past few years there has been a significant step-change improvement in the in-built safety of vehicles.

“Tasmanians are encouraged to check the safety features of the car they are looking to buy through a new national awareness campaign produced by Australasia's independent vehicle safety advocate, ANCAP SAFETY, and a new online car safety feature [checking tool](#).

“The campaign shows how two key vehicle safety technologies – Autonomous Emergency Braking (AEB) and Lane Support Systems (LSS) – can help save lives.

“The campaign includes real-life dashcam footage captured and submitted to ANCAP by everyday Australians showing two common crash scenarios – near-misses with pedestrians, and run-off-road crashes – highlights the stark reality and negative consequences of crashes that happen every day on our roads.

“The footage shows everyday mistakes happen to everyday people, yet a mistake on the road – whether it be yours or someone else's – does not have to be fatal.

“While 71 per cent of all new vehicles sold have some form of autonomous emergency braking as standard, the average age of a Tasmanian passenger car is 13 years (compared to 10 nationally), and over 30 percent, or 111 000, of Tasmania's light passenger vehicles are more than 15 years old.

“One in four serious casualties in Tasmanian towns and cities are vulnerable road users, many of whom are pedestrians injured or killed at crossing sites that have signals and those that do not. Six out of 10 fatalities in Tasmania are on rural and regional roads.

“Tasmanians should make safety their top priority when buying a vehicle with buyers now able to check their prospective car on [ANCAP's website](#).

“Although many new entry-level cars have AEB and/or LSS as standard features, there are also plenty of used vehicles under \$15 000 that are five-star ANCAP-rated and have these technologies.”
