

MEDIA STATEMENT

6 April 2023

Partnership improves safety for travellers

The Queensland Government is teaming up with Caravanning Queensland to improve safe holiday travel on the state's roads.

Transport and Main Roads Land Transport, Safety and Regulation Acting General Manager, Joanna Robinson, announced the new partnership today, which features an education program run throughout the state in response to the rapid rise of recreational vehicle ownership.

The Caravan Safety Check program will educate and support recreational vehicle owners with the information they need to tow confidently, safely and compliantly. This will be in the form of workshops, weight and safety inspections, as well as educational videos.

Queensland has experienced a marked rise in recreational vehicles (RVs) on the road since the advent of COVID-19, with locals choosing to holiday closer to home.

Total registrations of RVs have increased by over 20 per cent in the last five years in the Sunshine State, with an average of 2333 new RVs on the road each month through 2022.

Popular types of RVs include camper trailers, camper vans, caravans, fifth wheelers and motorhomes.

Quotes attributable to Transport and Main Roads Land Transport, Safety and Regulation Acting General Manager Joanna Robinson:

"With 297 lives lost on Queensland roads last year – the highest number in over a decade – we are dedicated to supporting initiatives which improve road safety.

"Queensland's roads can take us to some incredible places to see all our state has to offer, and caravanning is a great way to travel.

"The rising popularity of these types of vehicles indicates we have more drivers on our roads who are either new to caravanning or who might have returned to it after some time away. So they may not be used to handling a longer and heavier vehicle.

"It's important drivers who are inexperienced in manoeuvring such large vehicles can do so safely to avoid becoming a danger to themselves or other vehicles.

"We are happy to support the work being done by Caravanning Queensland to promote safe travelling around the state. I encourage RV drivers and passengers to seek out the tools and resources available to ensure they have a safe trip.

"There were 2.9 million overnight caravan and camping trips taken in Queensland for the year ending June 2022.

"This partnership will build upon the success of Caravanning Queensland's work by extending the Caravan Safety Check Program to more locations across Queensland.

"In turn it will enhance the ways to reach and educate recreational vehicle owners."

Quotes attributable to Caravanning Queensland CEO, Jason Plant:

"We are proud to partner with the Queensland Government to promote the safety of recreational drivers throughout Queensland.

"We encourage all caravanners to drive responsibly and safely, and to be mindful of their impact upon other road users.

"This partnership will enable us to reach more drivers in more locations across the state to educate them on safe caravanning practices.

"We encourage caravanners throughout Queensland to keep in touch with us via social media to register for a Weigh Day event, attend a Caravanning Queensland expo or head to our website to find more information to make your caravanning trip safe and enjoyable."

ENDS

Transport and Main Roads Land Transport, Safety and Regulation Acting General Manager Joanna Robinson is available for interview on request.

Media contact: TMR Media Unit, 3066 7060