

## **Media Statement**

20 April 2016

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### **Let's talk about Towards Zero**

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Every Tasmanian has a stake in reducing deaths and injuries on our roads, Road Safety Advisory Council Chair Jim Cox said today.

“Everyone uses the road in one way or another,” Mr Cox said.

“That’s why the Road Safety Advisory Council wants Tasmanians’ opinions about the Towards Zero Strategy Discussion Paper.”

The Discussion Paper, released today, is the result of community and stakeholder consultation and advice from specialist independent researchers who have analysed Tasmania’s crash statistics.

The Discussion Paper outlines a range of options being considered for the next 10-year road safety strategy.

The Towards Zero Strategy, effective from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2026, will replace the current strategy that expires at the end of next year.

“Our call for people to have their say is the next step in the consultation process,” Mr Cox said. “We want all Tasmanians to again have their say, to support road safety and help work towards achieving a zero road toll. Responding to the Discussion Paper gives people that opportunity.”

The Paper has been released to start the conversation about initiatives that could be considered for the new Strategy. People can respond to the Paper by completing the online survey at [www.towardszero.tas.gov.au/public\\_and\\_stakeholder\\_consultation](http://www.towardszero.tas.gov.au/public_and_stakeholder_consultation).

For those who would like to discuss their thoughts in person, drop-in sessions are being held in Hobart, Launceston, Burnie and at Agfest.

“In developing the new strategy, we have looked at our crash history, best practice solutions from throughout the world and modelling,” Mr Cox said. We now have advice about what will be most effective in reducing the number of deaths and severity of injuries.”

“We’ve also asked Tasmanians about what they think the biggest road safety issues are.

About 250 people came to 13 internal government stakeholder forums, five public regional forums and four key stakeholder forums for those with an interest in road safety, such as local councils, the transport industry, service groups and road user groups such as motorcyclists and cyclists.

370 people completed an on-line survey and 17 submissions were received from community members and stakeholders.

The new strategy will be based on the safe system approach to road safety – safer drivers, safer speeds, safer vehicles and safer roads – and will include initiatives to reduce the number and severity of crashes.

Mr Cox said that although serious road trauma was trending down, nearly 3,500 people were killed or seriously injured on our roads in the past 10 years.

“I encourage all Tasmanians to read the Discussion Paper, to complete the on-line survey and to drop in to one of the sessions to talk about options for reducing crashes.” Mr Cox said.

Members of the Department of State Growth’s Road Safety Branch and Mr Cox will be at the drop-in sessions to talk about potential options in the Paper.

The Discussion Paper and on-line survey are at [www.towardszero.tas.gov.au/home/public\\_and\\_stakeholder\\_consultation](http://www.towardszero.tas.gov.au/home/public_and_stakeholder_consultation)

The drop-in sessions will be held at:

<b>Where</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
Burnie Arts & Function Centre 77-79 Wilmot Street <b>Burnie</b>	Tuesday, 3 May 2016	3:00-6:00pm
Tramsheds Function Centre 4 Invermay Road <b>Launceston</b>	Wednesday, 4 May 2016	3:00-6:00pm
AGFEST Oaks Road <b>Carrick</b>	Thursday, 5 May 2016	8:00am-5:00pm
Rydges Hotel 393 Argyle Street <b>North Hobart</b>	Tuesday, 10 May 2016	3:00-6:00pm

For more information email [towardszero@stategrowth.tas.gov.au](mailto:towardszero@stategrowth.tas.gov.au)

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