



Attachment 6

What factors and conditions are involved in 100 km/h road crashes?

(previous analysis conducted in Feb 2011)

In responding to the Government's proposal about a blanket speed limit reduction on 100 km/h sealed roads in February 2011, the RACT undertook analysis of crashes on these roads in Tasmania over a five-year period.

DIER provided the 2006-2010 data for the analysis at RACT's request.

Many different crash factors were involved. In many instances, crash factors were multiple. DIER's own report, *Serious Car Crashes in 100 speed zones 2006-2010* amply demonstrates the multiple factors involved in individual crashes.

There were some 570 serious casualty crashes on 100km/h roads between 2006 and 2010.

Some 419 serious casualty crashes occurred in daylight, but a significant number - 150 - occurred in darkness or dawn/dusk.

Seven different surface conditions were identified in crashes: condensed down - it was dry in about 430 crashes; wet in 124; 89 involved icy conditions or gravel or loose material on roads; 37 involved poor road conditions such as verges, potholes, road shoulders; and three involved oil or fuel on the road.

The type of vehicle involved in a serious rural road crash included 509 light vehicles, but also a proportionally high 165 motor cycles in the period, as well as 18 bicycles.

Vehicles involved in serious road crashes in the five years were predominantly built between 1993 and 2002 when very few vehicles had built-in active safety features such as ESC and airbags. (built between 1962-2002: 480 vehicles; built since 2003: 229)

Licence category: While most drivers held a full licence (468), a significant proportion held an interstate licence (84) or overseas licence (25). 92 were provisional licence holders, 34 were learners, and 8 were disqualified.

From the figures supplied by DIER it became clear that serious crashes involved relatively significant instances of:

- Wet conditions
- Night time and dawn/dusk crashes
- Involvement by visitors to the state



- Motor cycle involvement
- P plate and learner drivers

Crash factor descriptions supplied by DIER for 100 km/h road crashes between 2006 and 2010 show a multiplicity of factors. The RACT has consolidated these many factors into six categories comprising similar factors.

Driving without due care and attention emerges overwhelmingly as the major category, followed by drugs and alcohol, engineering issues with either the road or the vehicle, the condition of the driver (asleep/fatigued; unwell or infirm), exceeding the speed limit, and sudden emergencies:

1. Driving without due care and attention

Inattention, inexperience, failure to drive to the conditions including excessive speed for the conditions, failure to give way, improper overtaking, failure to observe road signs and markings, reversing without care, turning without care, distraction inside or outside vehicle

Total: 732

2. Drugs and alcohol as factors

Total: 187

3. Road defect or vehicle defect

Total: 92

4. Asleep/fatigued; unwell or infirm

Total: 91

4. Exceeding speed limit

Total: 61

5. Sudden emergencies/Animal on road/pedestrian on road

Total: 27