



Media Release

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Additional double demerit infringements welcomed

The RAC has welcomed the Government's announcement that mobile phone use and red light infringements will now be included in double demerit periods.

RAC General Manager Corporate Affairs, Will Golsby, said the RAC had called for mobile phones to attract double demerits since 2009.

"Mobile phone use while driving is a serious offence. An RAC survey of 700 17-19 year olds last year showed that more than 40% had spoken or sent a text while driving and a further 20% had checked social media. Nearly half of the survey respondents had seen their parents use a phone while driving," Mr Golsby said.

"The impact of inattention on our roads is now comparable to speed and drink driving. Western Australia's road fatality rate is still higher than the national rate and now is not the time to be complacent when it comes to road safety."

Red light cameras are an important deterrent and can positively influence driver behaviour. Last year, nearly half Western Australia's metropolitan road fatalities were pedestrians and motorcyclists. Intersections can be particularly dangerous for vulnerable road users, and all road users need to approach intersections with caution.

The release of the Mid-Year Review highlighted that speed and red light cameras have so far delivered \$97 million to the Road Trauma Trust Account but only \$77 million had been allocated to projects. The RAC expects all of the funds in the Road Trauma Trust Account to be allocated solely to important road safety projects to ensure everything is being done to reduce the number of Western Australians killed and seriously injured on our roads.

Media Contact: Ros Nelli 0421 586 049 or Kylie Bonkowski 0401 703 719