



A MESSAGE from Brighton Mayor, Tony Foster

LATEST advice showing Tasmania's road toll is significantly higher than last year's should convey a salutary message to all of us, that we need to take care on or around the roads.

This message is even more important at this time of year when roads tend to be busier and people are often rushing to do the last-minute errands as the holiday season approaches.

At the time of writing, Tasmania's road toll so far this year was 35, seven higher than that of the same time last year. One road death is one too many and the Road Safety Advisory Council has established a goal of zero fatalities. Of course, this is aspirational, but we should all be doing everything we can to drive down this unnecessary tragedy on our State's roads.

This means driving within the established speed limits and according to the prevailing road and weather conditions. It means being aware of other road users and considering other drivers, your passengers and pedestrians and giving yourself plenty of time to get where you want to go so that you don't have to rush.

Unfortunately, we can't do anything about the 35 lives that have been sadly lost this year. But we can do our best to ensure this figure does not grow between now and December 31 and continue this effort into the New Year.

As well as taking care on our roads, we should also continue to take all the necessary precautions to guard against any outbreak of the COVID-19 virus.

Yes, Tasmania and indeed all of Australia, has done a wonderful job in suppressing the virus and with the development of vaccines, there is certainly hope on the horizon. But COVID-19 has not been eradicated, so we still have to be careful and continue to heed the advice of health authorities, observe social distancing requirements, sanitise and wash our hands regularly.

While the virus may not be actively present in our community, these are wise precautions that will help keep our community healthy as we head into the festive season.

Tony Foster AM OAM JP
Mayor