

25 January 2019

Aussie, Aussie, Aussie! Please drive safe!

The State's peak motoring body has urged Australia Day revellers to plan ahead and know their limits this long weekend, with plenty of Queenslanders set to hit the roads.

RACQ spokesperson Clare Hunter said many Queenslanders were expected to take advantage of Monday's public holiday, which meant major arterial roads across the south east would be busier than usual over the coming days.

"The Bruce Highway north to the Sunshine Coast and Pacific Motorway south to the Gold Coast are expected to be busy on Friday afternoon with many drivers likely to make an early getaway. We expect similar conditions on Saturday morning too," Ms Hunter said.

"The run back to Brisbane on Monday afternoon could also be chockers, so we'd recommend staggering your departure. Leaving outside the expected peak times could mean you'll have a smoother trip and spend less time stuck in traffic."

Ms Hunter said regardless of whether they were travelling on two wheels, four wheels or on foot, road users needed to remember the dangers of alcohol during their Australia Day festivities.

"If you're thinking of having a few beers with your snags on the barbie, you'll need to think about how you'll get home safely," she said.

"Don't have a 'she'll be right' attitude when it comes to alcohol – if you're going to drink, don't get behind the wheel, ride or walk home drunk. Call on a sober mate or use a rideshare or a taxi instead.

"Scooter riders in the Brisbane and on the Gold Coast also need to remember their responsibilities and be safe and courteous around others on footpaths. Stick to a safe riding speed, wear a helmet and don't ride a scooter while under the influence of alcohol.

"We want everyone to celebrate Australia and have fun, but we want everyone to get home safely too."

Media inquiries: RACQ spokesperson Clare Hunter 0427 261 932; Media Advisor Emma O'Mara 0427 949 358.

RACQ is Queensland's largest club and peak independent motoring organisation. We were formed in 1905 to represent the interests of the State's first motorists and today campaign for safer drivers, vehicles and roads on behalf of the 1.6 million members who own the Club. We offer those members a vast range of motoring, insurance, banking, entertainment and travel services and benefits, and each year respond to more than a million calls for roadside assistance.