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## Sunny Coast polities urged to prioritise road funding

The State's peak motoring body has called on the next Federal Government to prioritise investment in roads and transport which would improve safety for Sunshine Coast locals.

As the Federal Election drew closer, RACQ Head of Public Policy Rebecca Michael urged political leaders to help close funding gaps which had delayed the delivery of vital projects.

"We need everyone to work together to do their bit for Queenslanders – road safety is not a partisan issue," Dr Michael said.

"Parts of the Sunshine Coast have experienced high growth in recent years but the road network hasn't kept up. It's costing us time in traffic and sadly the lives of loved ones.

"We want to see upgrades for the Bruce Highway fast-tracked between Pine Rivers and Caloundra, as well as Maroochydore Road and Mons Road. These are notorious spots for crashes and congestion so extra lanes and safety improvements are needed.

"It's also important other roads, like Steve Irwin Way, which do a lot of the heavy lifting of traffic on the broader network, aren't forgotten. Effective low cost safety improvements like widening roads and installing wider centrelines, upgrading intersections and clearing roadsides can make all the difference in keeping people alive."

Dr Michael said while the Club was pleased major political parties had committed some funds to the Beerburrum to Nambour rail upgrade, the project would not go ahead unless further money was invested.

"We've welcomed recent announcements on this project from both the Coalition and Labor, but we need them to stump up more if this vital rail upgrade's to go ahead," she said.

"It's been in the pipeline for years – it's time to get on with delivering what's been promised."

### **RACQ's priority projects for the Sunshine Coast included:**

- Bruce Highway six lane upgrades between Pine Rivers and Caloundra
- Bruce Highway Maroochydore Road to Mons Road upgrade
- Steve Irwin Way safety works package including duplication where required
- Beerburrum to Nambour rail upgrade.

**Media inquiries: RACQ Head of Public Policy Rebecca Michael 0418 201 179; 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 1.7 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.