



## Auto Safety Awareness Program

### Media Release

The Auto Safety Awareness Program (ASAP) is a partnership of five organisations and has the backing of the State Minister for Roads and Ports. ASAP is designed to raise awareness of how important it is to regularly maintain the condition of your vehicle, particularly as the wet weather approaches.

The focus of the 2008 campaign is tyre safety. Motorists are urged to make weekly checks to make sure their tyres are in good condition.

The following quotes illustrate the partners' commitment to ASAP:

#### RACS

"As surgeons, our interests are both in accident prevention and the management of road trauma victims. It is the horror of the human misery we deal with which highlights to us the need for any preventative measures."

"The consequences of being unable to stop in time may not be uppermost in the public's mind until they or their family are personally touched and in need of our trauma services. Perhaps attention to visibly incompetent tyres may reduce this likelihood," RACS Victorian Road Trauma Committee, Chairman, Garry Grossbard, said.

#### RACV

RACV Chief Engineer – Vehicles, Michael Case, said tests on wet roads by RACV and VACC demonstrated the danger of unroadworthy tyres.

"A car on worn tyres at 60km/h took an average 3.9m extra distance to stop," he said. "That could be the difference between life and death if a child runs out in front of your vehicle. Furthermore, a car with worn tyres might slide sideways in either direction or skate straight-on; you just never know."

#### VicRoads

"Your tyres affect your car's capacity to respond in an emergency and therefore are a key factor in assessing the cars roadworthiness," explains Don Hogben, Director Vehicle Management and Safety, VicRoads.

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“Tyres are the only contact between your car and the road, and influence the car's capacity to avoid or handle a crash. Good tyres make a huge difference in an emergency or in wet conditions.

“Wear can reduce the ability of tread to grip slippery roads. If buying a used car, check the tyres for uneven wear, looking for high and low areas or unusually smooth areas. Remember, vehicles with damaged and dangerous tyres will not pass a VicRoads roadworthy test,” says Don.

#### TAC

“Critical to the outcome of a crash is impact speed. Travelling within the speed limit and having the ability to stop quickly in an emergency situation minimises impact speed.”

“Quality tyres, in good condition and inflated appropriately will ensure efficient braking, reducing the chance of a collision or being seriously injured.” David Healy, Senior Manager Road Safety, Transport Accident Commission

#### VACC

“Checking your tyres is not difficult if you follow these tips. Check them when they are cold and use a tyre pressure gauge. Pump your tyres to the recommended pressure which is displayed in the owner’s manual or on the small plate usually found inside the door or the glove box.”

“Keep an eye out for “tread wear indicators” - small bars which appear across the tread if the tyre wears down. Check the valve caps are in good condition and remember to check the spare,” VACC Executive Director, David Purchase, said.

#### State Minister for Roads and Ports, Mr Tim Pallas

"In the last five years, Victoria has recorded its five lowest road tolls, but every person, family and community touched by tragedy on our roads is one too many.

We must all take responsibility for keeping our roads, and our cars safe in our effort to reduce the road toll," Mr Pallas said.

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