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MEDIA RELEASE

THE COALITION'S POLICY TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY

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The Coalition will improve road safety through greater investment in roads, targeted training to learner drivers and parents, closer co-operation with state and territory governments and through undertaking a major study into road trauma.

Click here to read our policy.

The Coalition's Policy to Improve Road Safety will deliver better roads as the central part of our plan to cut the road toll and road trauma. We will also target the driving skills of young people, who continue to feature disproportionately in deadly accidents.

While Australia's road toll has steadily fallen from nearly 2,900 deaths in 1982 to 1,300 in 2012, the Coalition is concerned that the rate of progress has slowed in recent years.

Despite the progress, there is still too much trauma on our roads – and too much of that occurs in regional areas.

The Coalition's Policy to Improve Road Safety will:

- invest in better roads with major road projects across Australia including upgrades of the dangerous Pacific Highway and Bruce Highway;
- spending \$2.2 billion over five years to continue the Roads to Recovery, Black Spot and Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity programmes;

- provide \$10 million to support the 'Keys2Drive' Programme;
- task the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE) to undertake a review into the full impacts of road trauma;
- encourage the purchase of safer cars and continue to support the Australasian New Car Assessment Programme (ANCAP) star safety rating system; and
- recognise road safety for cyclists as a priority.

The Coalition will continue to work with local, state and territory governments; motorists' associations; the Australian Automobile Association; road safety organisations like the Australasian College of Road Safety and the Australian Road Safety Foundation; as well as motorists and car makers to reduce road trauma.

According to the Department of Infrastructure and Transport the cost of road crashes in Australia is estimated to be \$27 billion per annum.

Our commitment to provide \$10 million to the 'Keys2Drive' Programme recognises its success in helping strengthen the driving skills of more than 100,000 young Australians.

Nearly one third of all fatalities on the roads are young people aged 16-25, this is despite the fact that they only represent 15 per cent of the population. Every parent with a teenager lives with the silent fear of a knock on the door – and the best thing we can do is improve the skills of young drivers.

In cities across Australia, we are seeing more commuter cyclists and we will work with state and territory governments to ensure that the skills and infrastructure are in place so that driver and cyclist training and information occurs at the same time.

The BITRE study into Road Trauma will also inform our decision-making so that we can make the roads across Australia safer.

The Coalition's Policy to Improve Road Safety is part of our Real Solutions Plan to build a stronger Australia – and a better future for all Australians.

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