

## RACQ Article – Work Driving Peril

The following is a summary of an article that appeared in the RACQ 'The Road Ahead' magazine (August/September issue 2003) titled "Work Driving Peril" highlights just how expensive running fleet vehicles can be. Major points include:

- Driving is probably the most dangerous activity undertaken by a worker.
- Employers and businesses have a limited understanding of the financial, legal and social problems that result from work related road crashes.
- Queensland fleet vehicles accounted for a quarter of the state's road deaths and more than 40 percent of all work related fatalities. They cost businesses \$1Billion a year.
- From 1997 to 2002 Queensland workers claimed compensation for more than 423,000 days off work due to vehicle related injuries, the cost was \$99Million.
- Q Fleet, which owns and manages more than 12,000 government and affiliated vehicles, is a leader in fleet safety, with a one-in-five accident ratio.
- People often think of a crash solely in terms of the vehicle costs – the metal banging – but research estimates the cost of a crash can be between 4 and 30 times that amount depending on the severity of the crash.
- Some studies put work-trips and commuting at more than half of all vehicle trips. In Queensland the vehicle (during commuting and work related travel) is legally considered a work place and is covered by Worker's Compensation Regulations.
- Burdens on businesses include: Duty of care, chain of responsibility, rising insurance or workers compensation premiums. Vehicle costs can include down time, replacement costs, lower resale figures, recovery, storage and repair fees. In personal terms, legal fees, retraining or staff replacement, lost wages, medical costs and lost productivity.

Queensland Transport's Workplace Fleet Safety System recommends seven steps for businesses:

1. Include fleet safety and a safe driving framework in organisational policy and objectives.
2. Hire drivers on driving record or awareness of issues.
3. Offer fleet safety and safe driving elements in staff induction courses.
4. Better fleet selection and maintenance.
5. Record and monitor involvement of fleet, individual drivers and single vehicles.
6. Offer incentives and discentives.
7. Support education programs.

A copy of the submission can be found on our website. We are conducting a survey of recipients of this submission on our website – [www.precisedriver.com](http://www.precisedriver.com). We would invite you to register your support or otherwise on our proposal as the submission is being sent to all Queensland members of the Queensland Parliament and other interested community and media organisations.

