



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ***Townsville City Council drive road safety message home***

Townsville City Council is taking the lead in road safety in north Queensland by introducing an innovative driver safety training program for council employees.

Like many other regions around Australia North Queensland has experienced a spate of road crashes since the beginning of the year and Troy Greenwood, Manager People Performance Operations says as one of Townsville's largest fleet owners it was important to take leadership and promote safe driving amongst employees and the wider community.

"We have approximately 800 road-going machinery and passenger vehicles and each driver has a family they want to return home to at the end of each working day," he said.

"This program will train our already skilled drivers in techniques that will not only make them better operators but also has the potential to reduce the incidence of other types of work related driver issues such as back and neck complaints and fatigue which are common in drivers who spend a long time behind the wheel."

The DriverSafety.com.au program covers a wide range of driving and workplace road safety issues. Stage 1 of the course includes online tutorials and testing and is designed to improve the safety of council staff as well as other road users.

"We're delighted Townsville City Council has taken the initiative in improving the safety of their staff," said Driversafety.com.au General Manager Gary Rigg

"Health and safety responsibilities are increasing on all fleet owners from major organisations such as council to smaller businesses who only have a few vehicles on the road during business hours.

"We're hoping Townsville's leadership will encourage other local governments and organisations to invest in road safety training too."

Townsville City Council also support Australia's only Community based Road Safety Campaign "Fatality Free Friday" which is on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2010 the council will coincide this important event with the launch of their own Driver Safety Program. For more information on Driversafety.com.au visit their website

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