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## Wheels now turning on RACQ driverless bus trial

The RACQ Smart Shuttle has hit the streets of Karragarra Island in Redlands Coast, as part of a Queensland-first on-road trial of a driverless bus.

The joint initiative, between RACQ and Redland City Council, with the support of Council of Mayors SEQ, this week commenced timetabled bus services on the island, and residents and visitors were welcomed to step onboard for free.

RACQ Head of Public Policy Rebecca Michael said the Club was proud to introduce Queenslanders to the next generation of motoring.

“This trial will give us greater understanding of autonomous vehicles, their suitability to Australian driving conditions and how they interact with other road users,” Dr Michael said.

“It’s a critical step in the broader process of integrating this technology more permanently on our roads in future, but it’s equally as important that it’s trusted by Queenslanders.

“Off the back of the launch of RACQ’s Mobility Centre of Excellence last month, this trial is further proof our State really is at the forefront of smart mobility solutions.”

Redland City Mayor Karen Williams said the bus was a step forward for the region as much as was for the future of motoring.

“The bus is the first-ever form of public transport for the Karragarra Island community which has some incredibly unique transport challenges that present a need for innovative solutions like this,” Ms Williams said.

“There’s a strong reliance on private vehicles, and the low traffic and low speed environment on the island makes it the perfect place to host this innovative trial. This is all about testing the technology to see if it can then be deployed to other areas, including our other residential islands.

“For me this journey began in 2017 when I got to experience this technology when in Singapore with the Council of Mayors SEQ and I knew then that this innovation could make a real difference to our island communities.

“We’re proud to be hosting this trial right here on our doorstep and encourage everyone to jump onboard and join us in making history.”

Further information about the trial could be found on [www.racq.com.au/racqsmartshuttle](http://www.racq.com.au/racqsmartshuttle)

**Media inquiries: RACQ media contact Emma O’Mara 0427 949 358; Redland City Council media contact Susie Winter 0435 657 347.**

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.