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## Worst times to travel over long weekend revealed

RACQ has urged motorists to plan their trips over the Australia Day long weekend after Club research revealed 65 percent of Queenslanders did not consider when would be the best time to travel to avoid traffic.

RACQ spokesperson Renee Smith said it was likely major arterial roads across the south east would be congested from this afternoon onwards.

“If you’re heading south to the Gold Coast or north to the Sunshine Coast from Brisbane you can expect traffic to start building from 1pm and it’s likely it won’t ease before 7pm,” Ms Smith said.

“Tomorrow, the Bruce Highway could be busy from as early as 8:30am and on the Pacific Motorway from midday, but it’s hoped both arterials will clear after 2pm.

“Your best bet is to get up early and beat the rush, not to mention probably score the best spot on the beach.”

Ms Smith said RACQ data from this time last year showed congestion on the Bruce Highway on Monday heading towards Brisbane, especially between 11am and 3pm.

“If you can start heading home before the busy 10am check out time you should beat the traffic, but incidents could spoil the trip at any time,” she said.

“If it’s already congested, or there’s a crash, please try to be patient. When motorists become frustrated and make bad decisions it can often lead to another crash and extend delays.”

Ms Smith also reminded motorists to ensure they had a plan B ahead of the festivities.

“If you’re planning on having a few drinks by the beach or at a barbeque with friends please don’t risk it behind the wheel,” she said.

“Drink driving is a serious offence and could haunt you for the rest of your life.

“Pay the fare for rideshare, taxi or public transport, get a lift with a designated driver. It could save your life or someone else’s.”

**Media inquiries: RACQ spokesperson Renee Smith 0409 573 193; Media Advisor Vivien O’Connor 0427 261 932.**

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 1.6 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.