

The Minister for Shipping and Transport, Mr. Gordon Freeth, today released details of an Australia wide safe driving contest aimed at increasing the road safety awareness of young motorists.

The contest which carries major prizes will be conducted in all States culminating in a national final contested by place getters in the various State events.

Mr. Freeth said the contest was being sponsored by Castrol Limited in association with various State organisations and would be known as The Castrol Drive. It had the support of the Australian Road Safety Council.

The contest has already been undertaken in Tasmania, with outstanding results. It was staged in association with Government Departments and other organisations, including the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Freeth said it was planned to conduct the driving tests in the other States between now and June with a national title taking place later this year.

The contest will be restricted to drivers of both sexes under 25 years of age. Each contestant will be required to drive with a navigator over a selected route in his home State. Contestants would be watched to ensure that all traffic regulations were observed throughout the journey. On completion of the route the drivers will take part in a series of tests aimed at establishing their skill as a driver.

"Judged on the success of the recent Tasmanian contest I believe these driving competitions will help young people become better drivers," Mr. Freeth said. "Statistics reveal far too many young drivers are involved in accidents that are all the more tragic because their best life lies ahead of them", he added.

The Minister said that the Commonwealth Government supported the competition and Castrol Limited was to be commended for its practical contribution towards one of the most significant aspects of today's excessive vehicle tragedies.

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