



Forty Years of Random Breath Testing in New South Wales

16 December 2022

Forty years ago, police in New South Wales were given the power in 1982 to stop any motor vehicle at random and subject the driver to a roadside breath test. In 1983, the first full year of RBT, the number of lives lost on NSW roads had fallen by 23% compared to the previous year and over time, alcohol-related fatal crashes fell by half.

The public came along for the journey as well. How many of us, who are a certain age, can still hum the "How will you go when you sit for the test" jingle? RTS Zero knows about RBT first-hand: working on the road, where the risks are never zero, on a hot summer day or a freezing cold night. To those officers we say "thank you".

We pay tribute to those police who:

- pioneered stationary RBT (high-volume static sites),
- introduced mobile RBT (single vehicle traffic stops)
- incorporated roadside drug testing to combat drug-driving
- strive to make the activity as safe as possible

The need for drink and drug driving prevention continues and the price of road safety is constant vigilance.

This torch is now passed to a new generation.

