



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Queensland Drivers Top Road Rage Tables

- Brisbane drivers fare worst
- Gold Coast / Sunshine Coast drivers getting more aggressive

**29 July 2011** – Leading Queensland insurer Suncorp is calling on drivers to keep cool and calm and show courtesy, after research revealed aggression on the state's roads was the worst in Australia.

Suncorp Insurance Executive Manager Martin Weatherhead said new research commissioned by the company through Newspoll\* confirmed the level of anger on Queensland roads remains a huge concern, with nine out of every ten drivers the victims of road rage incidents.

"Man or woman, young or old, road warriors or short-trip commuters, city or regional drivers, the results are stark – 85% across the state believe drivers are becoming more aggressive," Mr Weatherhead said.

"A little congestion or competition for a car park and common courtesy goes out the window."

Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast drivers fare worse than their Brisbane or regional Queensland counterparts, with 92% believing that the levels of aggression on the roads are getting worse.

"This aggression isn't just a feeling – 92% of Queensland drivers surveyed and 95% of Brisbane drivers have been the victims of this anger spilling out into road rage incidents."

The most worrying part of this, according to Mr Weatherhead, is that in 12% of these cases the drivers reported that they've been forced-off the road and a further 6% have had their car damaged.

"This means thousands of Queensland drivers have been put at physical risk during one of these incidents," he said.

About 82% attributed the high levels of road rage to traffic congestion. Another source of rage – the theft of car park spaces – was also prevalent, according to 54% of those surveyed. Stealing car park spaces is most prevalent on the Gold Coast/Sunshine Coast, with two-thirds of motorists (66%) claiming someone has nicked their spot while they were clearly waiting for it.

"Suncorp Insurance is working hard to make Queensland's roads and communities safer. There is absolutely no place for aggression behind the wheel, as it spills too easily into dangerous driving behaviours, putting people's safety at risk," Mr Weatherhead warned.

"If someone cuts you off, tailgates you or steals your park, just take a deep breath – a little courtesy on our roads goes a long way", he concluded.

**For further information or media interviews, please contact Reuben Aitchison on 0421 165 650.**

#### About the Research

\*Newspoll Market & Social Research conducted an independent internet survey of 3,740 Australian drivers, 18 years of age and older, across all states and territories in 2011. Collected data has been weighted in line with current ABS population demographics to ensure any extrapolation of results is representative of age sex and area.

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