

State Election Priorities 2017



For the better

State Priorities for WA

Four years on from the 2013 State Election, congestion is still identified as one of the top issues and tragically, WA is on track in 2016 for one of the worst on record for fatalities on our roads.

RAC members want choice. The choice to be safe on our roads. The choice to drive, ride, walk and take public transport. The choice of easier and more affordable ways to move around their community and State.

In 2017, RAC members want the next State Government to commit and deliver on **three key promises**:

1. Saving Western Australian lives and preventing serious injuries on our roads;
2. Managing congestion by delivering integrated, scheduled and fully-funded transport projects across the public transport, road and cycling networks; and
3. Keeping the cost of motoring down.

RAC is the voice of more than 850,000 Western Australians and is the leading advocate on mobility issues and challenges facing our State.

More information can be found at rac.com.au/givemetime

1. Saving Western Australian lives and preventing serious injuries

Too many people are being killed and seriously injured on our roads. Western Australia's road fatality rate has gone from being best in class to one of the worst. The road safety record is unacceptable.

Sadly the majority of people killed on our roads are country drivers.

In 2015, 161 people died on WA roads - 87 in regional areas and 74 in the metropolitan area.

As at 29 November 2016, 171 people had lost their lives on WA roads. This is worse than the 2015 total and 12 more than the five year average.

The next State Government must:

- » Guarantee all Road Trauma Trust Account funds are spent or allocated every financial year, with the full list of projects and programs made publicly available.
- » Guarantee continued funding for the second rescue helicopter based in Bunbury.
- » Increase the number of random breath and drug tests in Western Australia to at least the national standard, one test per driver per year, in the next Term of Government.
- » Increase the number of traffic hours performed by WA Police in line with those States with the lowest road fatality rate.
- » Accelerate the rollout of additional speed cameras across Western Australia, including point-to-point speed cameras.
- » Introduce the mandatory display of ANCAP safety ratings on all vehicles sold by licensed dealers in Western Australia.
- » Fund a dedicated program to reduce the road maintenance backlog, as identified by the Auditor General, by at least 30 per cent in the next Term of Government.
- » Accelerate the delivery of a coordinated and transparent road safety plan for regional WA covering enforcement, road maintenance and education, funded by the Road Trauma Trust Account and Royalties for Regions. Priority should be given to the Wheatbelt region.
- » Legislate to increase the on-road protection for emergency service, road-side and breakdown response workers.

- » Reduce the severity and occurrence of crashes on the road network by accelerating funding for roadside barriers, audible edge lines, sealed shoulders and intersection upgrades.
- » Improve the way crash data is collected and reported to increase transparency and accountability against Towards Zero targets.
- » Change the road safety legislation to guarantee the Road Safety Commissioner reports directly to Parliament to increase accountability and transparency**.

** Despite welcome changes to road safety governance in this State since the last election, RAC believes the overall responsibility for road safety across Government agencies has not been effective and the allocation of RTTA funds needs greater accountability and transparency.

2. Managing congestion by delivering integrated, scheduled and fully-funded transport projects across the public transport, road and cycling networks

Without change, Infrastructure Australia has predicted seven of the 10 most congested roads nationally will be in Perth by 2031, including the top four. Investment in WA's transport network now is vital.

By 2031, Perth's public transport system will need to carry more than twice as many people as it did in 2011.

Figures from the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics show the average travelling time for Perth workers is almost half an hour each way – or the equivalent of 10 days a year.

The next State Government must:

- » Prioritise, fund and outline timing of the major transport road and rail projects required for Western Australia in the long term within the first 12 months of Government.
- » Commit to an open data policy to improve transport services using real-time information. Priority should be given to a free App using real time bus information.
- » Commit to the Thornlie rail line extension to Cockburn Central via Canning Vale.
- » Commit to the Bunbury Outer Ring Road.
- » Purchase new rolling stock to allow trains to move at closer headways, increasing the frequency of services and providing additional capacity to reduce over-crowding on existing train lines.
- » Consider use of alternative sources to fund public transport like developer contributions and value capture.
- » Establish a fully-funded program to squeeze more out of the existing road network by better use of technology like intelligent transport systems and real-time travel information.



- » Double funding for cycling. Priority should be given to completing the Fremantle Rail Line, Mitchell Freeway and Midland Rail Line Principal Shared Paths and an audit of all on-road cycle routes.
- » Prioritise investment to enhance public transport access within 10km of the CBD and to provide high frequency services connecting key activity centres.
- » Cap increases public transport fares at or below the rate of inflation.
- » Establish a dedicated fund to coordinate how driverless vehicles can be safely transitioned into our existing transport network. This should include the introduction of a regulatory framework.
- » Prioritise funding to manage congestion at the worst congestion hotspots in Perth including Leach Highway/Welshpool Road, Mitchell Freeway, Tonkin Highway, Graham Farmer Freeway and Marmion Avenue.

3. Keeping the cost of motoring down

The cost of motoring remains a 'high priority' issue for RAC members.

Costs and charges imposed by Government, like registration, compulsory third party insurance, including no fault, and licence fees are levied regardless of the number of kilometres driven.

The next State Government must:

- » Cap registration, compulsory third party insurance and licence fees at or below the rate of inflation.
- » Guarantee Third Party Insurance fund dividends will be directed to road safety programs and initiatives.
- » Guarantee transparent reporting of the Motor Vehicle (Catastrophic Injuries) Fund and ensure surpluses will not be paid as cash dividends to Government.
- » Guarantee all monies received from any successful litigation paid for by taxes on motorists is directed to reduce premiums for motorists or road safety programs or initiatives*.
- » Guarantee the Insurance Commission of WA remains government owned and that CTP insurance is not privatised.

* WA motorists paid a \$50 annual charge on third party insurance premiums from 1993 to 1996 to help ICWA's recovery and litigation costs, it was not recovered from a Government consolidated fund.