



Media Release

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Lack of action will threaten job targets and add to congestion

Perth's North Eastern sub-region is the only area likely to meet targets set for more localised employment by 2031, RAC's report *Employment Self-Sufficiency Health Check: Planning for Perth's Congestion Challenges* has revealed.

RAC General Manager Corporate Affairs, Will Golsby, said more needs to be done to entice employers to locate operations in activity centres if the targets are to be met.

"Decentralising workplaces has numerous benefits for individual businesses including lower rent costs, access to new workforces and enhanced quality of life for employees. Nearly half of the RAC's own workforce is located outside the Central sub-region," Mr Golsby said.

The RAC's analysis of Perth's Employment Self Sufficiency revealed only one of the six metropolitan sub-regions was on track to meet the targets set down by the State Government in its Directions 2031 framework, released in 2010.

The North East sub-region, which encompasses the City of Swan and Shires of Mundaring and Kalamunda, is the only area on track to meet its targets, assuming current trends continue. All the other regions are currently falling behind their targets.

A report from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that nearly a third of Perth residents travel in excess of 20 kilometres to get to work and, compared with other Australian capital cities, Perth has the smallest proportion of residents living within 10 kilometres of where they work or study.

"Locating jobs near to where people live is a key strategy to help Perth commuters reduce the amount of travel they are required to do and reduce the congestion on our roads," Mr Golsby said.

The Report says there is merit in progressing, with some urgency, a number of specific actions to encourage the creation of new jobs in highly accessible activity centres stating that meeting ESS targets will require action from both the public and private sectors. Ensuring land use zoning allows adequate levels of commercial development to occur, enhancing public transport, cycling and walking connections and a five-point plan for employers to successfully decentralise operations were cited as actions.

The report also noted that given the long lead-time for commercial development, and thus new jobs becoming available, what happens in the short term (over the next five years) in particular will be crucial.

The RAC's full report on WA's Employment Self Sufficiency can be found on the [RAC website](#).

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