



Media Release

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Travel planning needed to help ease congestion

Travel plans for new land use developments would help ease pressure on transport networks, a new RAC Mobility Bulletin *Travel planning for new developments: Advice for local governments* has found.

RAC General Manager Corporate Affairs, Will Golsby, said it was a challenge for local governments to fully gauge and manage the impact of new developments and travel plans are part of the solution.

“Governments and the private sector need to start looking at alternative ways to make the most of the full range of mobility options available to reduce congestion on our roads,” Mr Golsby said.

The report says local governments should require new developments to prepare and implement a travel plan as part of their planning approval, or at least work with developers to secure voluntary travel plans.

Travel plans comprise a package of measures to address the specific travel needs and impacts of a particular site and the people who use it, with the view to reducing single-occupancy car trips and encouraging more active transport like walking and cycling. They can help reduce congestion and improve access and amenity.

If implemented at the time of planning, necessary infrastructure and services can be incorporated into the design of the new development and sustainable travel behaviours can be embedded from the outset. It also avoids unnecessary expense associated with retro-fitting facilities.

“Travel plans are relatively low cost and can bring about fast results, helping local governments mitigate the cumulative impact of development on the transport network, while also bringing about positive benefits for the local community,” Mr Golsby said.

Thresholds can be set to ensure the requirements (in terms of scope and content) are appropriately balanced with the scale of development.

In 2012, the RAC developed its own travel plan, which includes a number of initiatives including an electric pool bike scheme, car-pooling database, cycling hub and better access to transport information.

Government is already working with site occupiers in WA on voluntary travel plans for existing workplaces, households and schools. The importance of these programs in promoting more sustainable and active travel behaviour is widely acknowledged and recent evaluations have demonstrated clear benefits.

The RAC’s full report on travel plans can be accessed on the [RAC website](#).

Media Contact: Ros Nelli 0421 586 049