



Media Release

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Regional cities need to look toward public transport and cycling

A greater range of regional transport options will be required over the next 10 years, in particular public transport and cycling, the inaugural RAC Regional Transport Survey has revealed.

RAC General Manager Corporate Affairs, Will Golsby, said the survey of more than 300 regional RAC members focussed on the cities of Albany, Bunbury and Greater Geraldton which were expected to experience increases in population of up to 15 to 29 per cent between 2012 and 2026.

“The transport system will play a key role in supporting and facilitating growth in our regional cities. People living in these cities need to be afforded a range of transport options, as is the case for their metropolitan counterparts,” Mr Golsby said.

“Two thirds of our survey respondents told us they find it moderately easy to move around their city. However, 75 per cent travel in their car alone. Public transport usage is very low at just one per cent and 44 per cent of respondents were unable to comment on their satisfaction with public transport services because they do not or have never used them.”

Of the 16 per cent of respondents who said they experience some degree of difficulty moving around their city, issues with public transport was the most frequently given reason. Other reasons included insufficient parking in the city centres, poor road design and unsafe driver behaviour.

“It’s encouraging to see that across the three cities, on average, five per cent of respondents said they cycle to their place of work or education,” Mr Golsby said.

Despite this relatively high proportion of survey respondents cycling, 29 per cent were still to some degree dissatisfied with the cycle paths and dedicated cycle lanes in their city and expressed concern about cyclist safety.

“Where cycling facilities have been provided in these cities respondents generally consider them to be good but we need to ensure that these facilities are sufficient to cater for the needs of existing users and to support increased participation, helping regional residents see it as a viable alternative to their vehicle.”

The survey was conducted to help inform the RAC’s Regional Transport Planning Initiative to better understand the transport and mobility challenges and priorities for our regional members.

The full report and survey results can be accessed on the [RAC website](#).

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