

Media Release

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State Budget must step up and deliver

This week's State Budget must fund and deliver key road safety and infrastructure projects.

RAC General Manager Corporate Affairs, Will Golsby, said the RAC expects previously committed projects to be funded, and the Budget must also drive innovation through smarter infrastructure and safety initiatives, to meet the challenges of our State

"We must confront and tackle congestion now to ensure the future productivity of our city and deliver and expand investment into our regional road and transport networks," Mr Golsby said.

"The WA Government has previously made commitments to projects that are essential to meeting the increasing demands faced by our road and public transport system as our population and economy continue to grow. The RAC expects these projects to be funded, not shelved."

Western Australia's State Budget needs to show a renewed commitment to reducing deaths and serious injuries on our roads including the delivery of safe infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians, sustained and widespread investment in public transport infrastructure, investment in road projects to maximise the capacity of the existing network and a commitment to keep the cost of motoring down.

Key budget priorities for the RAC include:

- The allocation of Road Trauma Trust Account funding each financial year;
- The MAX light rail to be reinstated in the forward estimates;
- The development and funding of a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) program;
- New funding models that will support the introduction of bus services in regional centres;
- Funding for Managed Motorways to be trialled in WA; and
- Reverse the State Government's decision to cap the level of road funding provided to local governments.

The Government's mid-year review raised concern about funding for road safety measures. The Road Trauma Trust Account had received \$97 million but only allocated \$77 million for 2013/14, leaving around \$20 million unspent in the account.

The RAC expects all of the funds in the Road Trauma Trust Account to be allocated to important road safety projects that align with Towards Zero, Western Australia's Road Safety strategy, to ensure everything is being done to reduce the number of Western Australians killed and seriously injured on our roads.

The RAC's full State Budget Submission can be viewed on the RAC website.

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