



Media Release

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Federal Budget does not guarantee a fair share of funding for WA

The RAC says the 2014/15 Federal Budget will deliver higher fuel prices to motorists, without any guarantee that more infrastructure funding will flow to WA.

RAC General Manager Corporate Affairs, Will Golsby, said there was no hint of an increased tax on fuel before the Federal Election, yet the Budget has now confirmed there will be higher costs at the bowser.

“The Government has not delivered a guarantee that the re-introduction of fuel indexation will actually deliver a greater share of road funding to WA from the total amount of petrol revenue raised,” Mr Golsby said.

“Instead the Government has stopped short, only committing the actual ‘indexation dollars’ to future road funding. This, combined with Canberra’s history of only returning around 36 cents for every one dollar collected from WA motorists, does not guarantee WA a fair share of infrastructure funding.”

The Budget has confirmed funding for a number of the RAC’s infrastructure priorities including \$589 million towards the Swan Valley Bypass, and \$140 million for the Tonkin Highway Grade Separations.

“\$307 million has also been confirmed for the Great Northern Highway from Muchea to Wubin and \$174 million towards the North West Coastal Highway from Minilya to Barradale,” Mr Golsby said.

“The RAC now wants to ensure that the projects are fully funded so that construction can start and they will be delivered on time.

“The new Perth Freight Link proposal however currently lacks detail and the RAC is calling for the release of a business case for the project.”

The RAC welcomes these important freight and road safety projects. However, there appears to be little respite from Western Australia’s growing congestion problem, forecast to cost \$2.1 billion by 2020, with no assistance to help fund major city-shaping public transport projects, such as MAX Light Rail.

The RAC has also welcomed the funding allocated to continue the Roads to Recovery and Black Spots programs.

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