



Media Release

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Western Australian motorists short changed

A new report commissioned by the RAC examining motorist-related tax has found that our State is being short changed by Canberra.

RAC General Manager Corporate Affairs, Will Golsby, said the latest analysis shows for every dollar the Australian Government collected from WA motorists, it spent just 41 cents on improving the State's roads.

"In the past year, it is estimated the Australian Government collected \$2.3 billion from WA, but invested just \$944 million dollars," Mr Golsby said.

"Canberra is cashing in at the expense of WA's motorists, with the majority of funding flowing to projects in Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria or into consolidated revenue.

"Western Australia is facing significant road safety and infrastructure challenges and to meet the demands being placed on our State, we urgently need a fairer deal from Canberra, and the facts back it."

More road fatalities occur on WA roads than any other mainland state. One person on average was killed on WA roads nearly every two days in 2013, with more fatalities having already occurred this year, than at the same time last year. If WA came into line with the national fatality rate, 33 additional lives would be saved each year.

Population growth forecasts will see Perth overtake Brisbane just before 2030. In addition, it is estimated that at least 3.9 million, or a maximum of 5.4 million people, could call Perth home by 2050.

"In 2012 the RAC forecast an additional one million motorised vehicles will be on our roads by 2020, and Perth's public transport system will also be required to carry more than twice as many people as it does now. This is why projects such as MAX Light Rail and the Airport Rail Link, which are critical to the functioning of our city, also deserve Federal attention.

"Our regional transport and networks also need increased funding to improve safety and efficiency. Between 2012 and 2026, the regional local government areas of the City of Albany, City of Bunbury and City of Greater Geraldton for example, are also expected to experience increases in population of up to 15 to 29 per cent.

"WA urgently needs a fairer distribution of funding and the State Government must also support this position by ensuring that projects are being put forward that are ready to be funded, and delivered."

The report is available on the RAC website.

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