



Media Release

Monday 10 November 2014

Fuel excise tax takes hold of WA wallets

RAC says the Australian Government's fuel tax levy will begin delivering a hit to motorists' hip pockets from today.

RAC General Manager Corporate Affairs, Will Golsby, said there is no guarantee the extra money raised by Canberra through the higher fuel tax will be returned to our State.

"The Australian Government's move to increase the petrol tax is a chaotic approach. This decision will hurt drivers every time they fuel their vehicle, as the big fuel providers will simply pass on the increased charges to consumers," Mr Golsby said.

"WA motorists are already among the most heavily taxed consumers in the country and an increase of this type is unjustified.

"This tax increase will impact those living in rural and outer metropolitan areas because they typically have longer distances to drive, and fewer public transport options."

RAC recently released a report which shows for every dollar the Australian Government collected from WA motorists in 2013, only 41 cents was returned to the State in the form of infrastructure spending.

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

"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.

"Western Australia is facing significant road safety and infrastructure challenges. In 2012, RAC forecast an additional one million motorised vehicles would be on our roads by 2020, while the State's population is predicted to overtake Brisbane by 2030.

"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."

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