

Media Release

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The path forward for cycling depends on action now

The RAC's 2015 WA Cycling Survey has received over 5,500 responses, highlighting the importance of cycling to the community, as well as exposing some significant barriers in ensuring it can reach its full potential as a safe and convenient mode of transport.

RAC General Manager Corporate Affairs, Will Golsby, said that the Survey has demonstrated a high level of engagement from the community who appreciate the benefits cycling brings to our way of life.

"Over 5,500 people have engaged in the survey which shows that both cyclists and non-cyclists want to be part of the discussion about the future of cycling in WA, including how we promote and encourage more cycling so that it is safe and convenient for all road users," Mr Golsby said.

The Survey shows investment in cycling infrastructure, both on and off road, is viewed as by far the most important area for the WA Government to place priority on in order to help encourage more people to cycle.

"Funding for cycling has failed to keep pace with the State's rapid growth and in 2012 RAC released research that showed \$388 million was needed to build world-class cycle networks in WA over the next 10 years.

"This funding is required urgently because it has been almost 19 years since the first Perth Bicycle Network Plan was released, and today WA's cycling infrastructure remains piecemeal."

RAC's 2015 cycling survey results:

- 82% of respondents cycle for exercise, 67% for leisure / fun, 40% cycle for transport and 23% cycle to avoid congestion.
- Shared paths are the most commonly used infrastructure for cycling trips (on average, respondents spend almost half of their time cycling on shared paths, followed by road and then on the road using a cycle lane)
 - Of those who cycle on the road with other vehicles, the overwhelming majority (87%) said they do so because there is no alternative (e.g. no shared paths, cycle lanes)
- 29% of people who identified a deterrent to cycling more said their main reason was a fear of sharing the road with motorists (this increased to 43% when multiple answers were permitted)

- 46% of respondents are either moderately or extremely dissatisfied with on-road cycling infrastructure, compared to 41% being moderately or extremely satisfied with off-road cycling infrastructure
- 51% of respondents said they feel either moderately or extremely unsafe when sharing the road with vehicles. This decreases to 18% when cycling on the road with cycle lanes
- 38% said they come across poorly designed cycle lanes always or most of the time when cycling
- 71% think the State Government should prioritise building on / improving the on-road cycle network (this was ranked first based on respondent's top three priorities)
- 64% would like to see the Government build on / improve the off-road cycle network (this was ranked second)

“RAC supports cycling as an important and alternative mode of transport to help tackle congestion, improve the health and wellbeing of cities and towns, and to help reduce vehicle emissions. The future is bright for cycling but now is the time to deliver,” Mr Golsby said.

Media contact: Kylie Bonkowski 0401 703 719