



Media Release

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State Budget must keep Western Australia moving

The RAC says this year's State Budget is an opportunity for the State Government to signal its commitment to keep Western Australia moving by funding and delivering essential programs and projects.

RAC General Manager Corporate Affairs, Will Golsby, said the Government needs to take strategic action now to meet the increasing demands being placed on our infrastructure.

"Delivering a strategic approach starts by releasing the transport plans, which are either in draft or haven't been released," Mr Golsby said.

"Our State's population is continuing to grow at an accelerated rate and by 2050 it is estimated that up to 5.4 million people could call Perth home. Obviously, without these essential plans on the table it's difficult to see how informed and considered decisions are being made in the best interest of Western Australians.

"While it is absolutely vital we continue to both plan and build for our State's future transport needs, getting the best return on investment means ensuring our existing infrastructure also works harder and smarter than ever before."

An example of this is RAC and Main Road's recent traffic light signal trial, which showed journey times could be considerably decreased by simply changing the sequencing and timing of the traffic lights.

"We need the Government to invest in technology which will squeeze more out of its existing infrastructure."

RAC is also warning the State Government not to unfairly target WA motorists as part of its efforts to raise revenue.

"Western Australian motorists are already paying their way and the 2014/2015 State Budget delivered an unjustified hit to motorists' hip pockets through increases to motor vehicle registration, licencing and Compulsory Third Party Insurance which were all above the rate of inflation."

RAC is also expecting the Government to deliver on its commitment to outline how the funding currently sitting in the Road Trauma Trust Account will be allocated to road safety initiatives this budget¹.

Western Australia's State Budget needs to show a renewed commitment to reducing deaths and serious injuries on our roads.

"Last year, Western Australia had the worst road fatality rate of any state."

rac.com.au/media

RAC's key priorities for the 15/16 Budget include:

- A renewed and improved commitment to reducing deaths and serious injuries on our roads;
- Sustained and wide spread investment in the public transport network;
- Investment in road projects to improve the operation of the existing network;
- A commitment to keep the cost of motoring down;
- Support for the provision of infrastructure to service alternative vehicle technologies, including the expansion of public electric vehicle charging facilities; and
- The accelerated delivery of safe infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists

RAC's State Budget Submission 15-16 can be found here <http://rac.com.au/news-community/news-and-reports/reports>

Media contact: Kylie Bonkowski 0401 703 719

ⁱ Premier Colin Barnett comments on the Road Trauma Trust Account on 6PR Radio on 5 February 2015

“...that money will be spent and you'll see that outlined in the Budget.”