



# Media Release

**Wednesday 13 May 2015**

## **Federal eyes on the road with no rail in sight**

The Federal Budget has delivered welcomed funding to important road projects across the State but has again missed the opportunity to fund critical WA public transport projects.

General Manager Corporate Affairs, Will Golsby, said the Federal Budget confirmed funding for a number of ongoing RAC regional and road safety priorities across the State including Swan Valley Bypass, Tonkin Highway Grade Separations, the Great Northern and the North West Coastal Highway.

“RAC welcomes Federal investment in these important freight and road safety projects. However, it is disappointing that city-shaping public transport infrastructure like MAX Light Rail has again been overlooked,” Mr Golsby said.

“The Federal Budget has also missed the opportunity to invest strongly in innovation to manage our growing congestion problem. By investing in road management technologies the Australian Government could have delivered additional low cost solutions that can make existing networks work harder, smarter, and be more integrated.

The Federal Budget confirmed that revenue from fuel excise in 2015/16 will be \$15.2 billion, an increase from the 2014/15 figure of \$14.8 billion.

“There was no hint of an increased tax on fuel before the 2013 Federal election, yet the Budget has again confirmed costs will be higher at the petrol bowser.

“WA motorists are already paying their fair share and it is concerning that Canberra has a recent history of only returning 41 cents for every one dollar collected from WA motorists.

RAC also welcomed the continuation of the Roads to Recovery programme which will assist with the maintenance of local roads. This investment is important because the Auditor General in 2009 identified that WA was facing an \$800 million dollar road maintenance backlog.

“We also welcome continued funding for the Black Spot Programme which will target areas where crashes are occurring.”

RAC will now work with the Australian Government to ensure that the funding outlined in the budget is delivered.

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