

Media Release

Thursday 14 May 2015

CTP needs clarity, road safety needs urgent attention

RAC has welcomed the introduction of a no-fault Compulsory Third Party (CTP) insurance scheme in Western Australia but details about its implementation needs further clarity.

RAC General Manager Corporate Affairs Will Golsby said the scheme, introduced from 1 July 2016, will help all people catastrophically injured as a result of a motor vehicle crash regardless of fault.

“It’s an important opportunity to assist members of the community who are devastated by the impact of road trauma,” said Mr Golsby.

“RAC’s concern remains that the \$99 increase for the first year has not been costed based on a whole of Government approach. This includes funding that is already provided to the public health system through the Federal and State Governments. This needs to be clarified.”

Mr Golsby said the State Government must also confirm that the governance of the CTP scheme will remain publicly-owned and managed.

“We are pleased the State Government has confirmed that a ‘dividend will not be collected from funds held under the scheme’ which was a key concern raised by RAC in its submission.”

The Budget also forecasts that \$80 million will remain unspent in the Road Trauma Trust Account.

“Western Australia has the worst road fatality rate of any State and it’s simply unacceptable for this funding to be sitting idle in this account. It should all be flowing sensibly into road safety initiatives across WA.

“Alarming, there is no funding for regional road run-off sections and metropolitan intersections past this financial year. The Budget also confirms the reduction of road maintenance funding across the State.”

Cycling investment has also flattened and public transport costs have again risen with a 2.42 per cent increase in fees. This is on top of the 4.0 per cent increase in last year’s Budget.

Mr Golsby said the Budget has also missed the opportunity to invest heavily in game-changers like MAX Light Rail and new technology to manage congestion.

“While the initial investment is welcome, WA needs more than just a focus on lanes, lines and signs.”

RAC's key priorities for the 15-16 Budget were:

- 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; and
- The accelerated delivery of safe infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists.

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