

Media Release

Friday 10 July 2015

Bunbury Outer Ring Road a priority

RAC says the Australian Government should provide funding for the \$675 million Bunbury Outer Ring Road to provide real solutions to the transport challenges facing the State's South West.

RAC General Manager Corporate Affairs Will Golsby says the <u>RAC Federal Priorities for Western Australia</u> highlighted that traffic volumes around Bunbury will increase significantly over the next 10 years.

"Increased population and traffic volumes will reduce the efficiency of the existing road network, adding further pressure to the area," said Mr Golsby.

"Investment in the Outer Ring Road will provide an alternative route for traffic and will assist to deliver further freight efficiencies, and ultimately make the connecting roads safer."

The expansion of the Bunbury Inner Harbour in the future is also likely to necessitate the closure of Estuary Drive, diverting traffic onto the Forrest Highway, and will further reduce the efficiency of the existing network.

The Bunbury Outer Ring Road is one of five key Federal infrastructure priorities for RAC which will provide real solutions to the transport challenges facing WA.

"RAC's priority is to ensure the Federal Government invests in projects that will connect people to jobs and services, implement technology solutions to squeeze more out of the existing infrastructure, and provide funding for major projects which will deliver a safer, and more reliable transport system.

"Bunbury is WA's second largest city and is an industrial, tourism and commercial base for the State's South West Region.

"The Bunbury Port is an integral site for ongoing economic development and is a distribution point for the mining, manufacturing, and agricultural sectors. It should be a priority for the Federal Government's infrastructure investment program."

RAC is encouraging WA Federal Members of Parliament to use the <u>RAC Federal Priorities for Western</u> <u>Australia</u> to advocate for a fairer share of infrastructure funding for WA.

Media contact: Georgina Forde 0401 703 719

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