



Media Release

Monday, 13 July 2015

Exploring the role of car sharing in Perth

Car sharing could be part of the solution to address Perth's growing congestion problem, and help reduce the personal cost of travel for some, according to a [report](#) released by RAC today.

RAC Senior Manager Policy & Research Anne Still said Perth must look at new ways to help people move around our city and support urban living.

"The new consumer shift towards collaborative consumption, as part of the sharing economy, is changing and influencing how we live, work and move around our communities," Ms Still said.

"In regards to transport, one option is car sharing. This has the potential to offer substantial benefits to individuals and communities, as well as reduce the number of cars on the roads and CO₂ emissions."

Car sharing, which provides short term access to motor vehicles for personal and business use, offers users the benefits of a car without the costs and responsibilities of ownership and operation.

International research shows the average car is parked for around 96 per cent of the time and according to recent ABS data drivers in WA typically use their vehicles to travel less than 14,000km per year.

"For those who do not rely on a private vehicle for their day-to-day activities, owning a first or second car may not be economically viable and car sharing would be an attractive alternative," Ms Still said.

"There is also an increasing desire, particularly amongst young people, for reduced car ownership and usage."

RAC's report revealed the areas in Perth with greater potential for car sharing to work were pockets within the Cities of Belmont, Fremantle, Perth, South Perth, Stirling, Subiaco and Vincent and the Towns of Cambridge and Victoria Park.

"Car sharing will not work everywhere. Demographic, socio economic and transport factors all play a role in the viability of a successful network," Ms Still said.

"Locations with higher population density, a mix of land uses, parking pressures, access to public transport and lower levels of car ownership tend to support successful car sharing programs".

The report, which includes the results of a survey of 800 respondents, highlighted that the concept of car sharing is appealing to many people residing in inner Perth areas. Almost half of respondents found the concept appealing, and one in four would use a car sharing service if one was available in their area, despite the concept being new to most.

"To provide the right conditions for this new mobility option, and to unlock its full benefits, action is required from local and State Governments, land owners and developers, strata property management and major employers," she said.

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“The establishment of a successful car share network, as a component of our multi-modal transport system, could have an important role to help manage congestion and the hip pocket of many Western Australians.”

Fast facts:

- Car sharing, which originated in Europe, is rapidly increasing in popularity and this is set to continue, with the global market estimated to grow 27% per annum between 2014 and 2019.
- Car sharing is most appealing to people who are under 35 years of age, professionals, aware of environmental issues, active in the local community and have already reduced their car use.

The full report can be found [here](#).

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