



Media Release

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Wheatbelt roads need more attention

RAC has today released its 12 month Risky Roads campaign scorecard, revealing that work still needs to be done on some of the Wheatbelt's most dangerous roads.

RAC General Manager Corporate Affairs, Will Golsby, said the scorecard looked at the progress made on the roads that were nominated by the community as the State's riskiest roads 12 months ago.

"We acknowledge and welcome the construction underway on some of the Wheatbelt roads identified, but we're extremely concerned that that work on the rest has not commenced," Mr Golsby said.

Last year, the WA community nominated almost half of the State's riskiest roads to be in the Wheatbelt, including Toodyay Road from Red Hill to Toodyay, Great Eastern Highway in Southern Cross, Great Northern Highway in Bindi-Bindi, Bruce Rock-Merredin Road in Merredin and Indian Ocean Drive in Lancelin.

The 12 month scorecard reveals that Bruce Rock-Merredin Road in Merredin remains unchanged with poor road quality and width, and Indian Ocean Drive in Lancelin is in desperate need of construction to improve overtaking opportunities.

"These results highlight the need for the State Government to deliver more funding, but the current State Budget only confirms a reduction in spending.

"This funding is urgent because tragically we have already lost 13 loved ones in the Wheatbelt this year. We need to do more to save lives and stop serious injuries."

More needs to be done on roads such as Toodyay Road where there have been 181 crashes resulting in 10 fatalities and 59 hospital or medical treatments since 2010.

RAC is continuing to urge Wheatbelt residents to be careful behind the wheel and drive to the conditions.

RAC has embarked on a \$3 million Wheatbelt road safety campaign over five years; the [Elephant in the Wheatbelt](#). Made out of wrecked cars, the life-sized African elephant sculpture has been touring the Wheatbelt to generate discussion and bring about driver behaviour change. He will be finishing off the year by visiting Parliament House (13 Oct), Narrogin Spring Festival (17 Oct) and Murray Street Mall in Perth (28-29 Oct).

The RAC's Risky Roads campaign is WA's largest road infrastructure community survey and is undertaken to provide a snapshot of community perceptions, insight for road authorities and assist in identifying trends in traffic flow, infrastructure and safety. For more information visit [Risky Roads](#).

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Top ten roads			
Rank	Road	Issue	Construction underway
1	Gngangara Road, Lexia	Increased vehicle traffic.	✓
2	Bussell Highway, Capel	Poor road quality, lack of overtaking opportunities.	✗
3	Beechboro Road North, Cullacabardee	Increased traffic, poor road condition.	✗
4	Toodyay Road, Red Hill to Toodyay	Increased traffic, poor road condition and lack of overtaking opportunities.	✓
5	Great Eastern Highway – Coolgardie to Southern Cross	Poor road quality and width.	✓
6	Great Northern Highway, Bindi-Bindi	Poor road quality and width.	✓
7	Great Eastern Highway Bypass, Hazelmere	Poor road quality.	✗
8	Bruce Rock-Merredin Road, Merredin	Poor road quality and width.	✗
9	South Western Highway, Manjimup	Poor road quality and width. Vegetation encroaching on road.	✓
10*	Indian Ocean Drive, Lancelin	Poor road quality and lack of overtaking opportunities.	✗
10*	Coalfields Highway, Collie	Narrow road and bridge.	✓

* Two roads drew in the rank for number 10.

Top ten intersections			
Rank	Intersection	Reason	Construction underway
1	Beechboro Road x Gngangara Road, Lexia	Inadequate crossing or turning opportunities and poor road surface.	✓
2	Ocean Reef Road x Edgewater Drive, Edgewater	Inadequate crossing or turning opportunities.	✗
3	Ennis Ave x Port Kennedy Drive, Port Kennedy	Inadequate crossing or turning opportunities. Speed of vehicles is too high and a confusing intersection layout.	✓
4	Mandurah Road x Surf Drive, Secret Harbour	Inadequate crossing or turning opportunities. Speed of vehicles is too high and a confusing intersection layout.	✗
5	Reid Highway x Malaga Drive, Noranda	Inadequate crossing or turning opportunities and an inadequate traffic light system.	✓
6	Berkshire Road x Roe Highway, Forrestfield	Inadequate crossing or turning opportunities and an inadequate and confusing traffic light system. Vegetation blocking visibility of oncoming traffic was also an issue.	✓
7	North Lake Road x Bibra Drive, Bibra Lake	Inadequate crossing or turning opportunities.	✓
8	Beaufort Street x Walcott Street, Mt Lawley	Difficulty turning right with existing traffic lights.	✗
9	Albany Highway x South Coast Highway, Albany (includes Chester Pass x Hanrahan x North Road x Albany Highway roundabout)	Confusing intersection layout with difficulty turning right from South Coast Highway onto Albany Highway and sight issues for left turning traffic. Significant conflict with nearby roundabout and high volume of heavy vehicle traffic.	✗
10	Tonkin Highway x Gosnells Road West, Martin	Inadequate crossing or turning opportunities, Speed of vehicles is too high.	✗