

Media Release

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MYEFO must confirm a fairer share of funding for WA transport infrastructure

RAC says the Australian Government's Mid-year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) must confirm a fairer share of funding for WA transport infrastructure.

RAC General Manager Corporate Affairs, Will Golsby, said MYEFO provides the opportunity for a timely reminder that an independent analysis of Federal funding for WA transport infrastructure has found our State is being short changed.

"Last year, for every dollar the Australian Government collected from WA motorists, it spent just 34 cents on improving the State's transport infrastructure. This is a significant step backward from 2013, in which only 41 cents in the dollar was returned to WA, and only 37 cents under the previous Government," Mr Golsby said.

"In real money terms, this means last year the Australian Government collected \$2.3 billion from WA motorists in the form of motor vehicle taxes, but spent only \$780 million on State transport infrastructure upgrades.

"While 41 cents out of every dollar is already a disappointing return, the reduction to 34 cents means WA has missed out on an additional \$155 million in Federal infrastructure spending in just 12 months."

Mr Golsby said if WA received just 50 per cent of the money paid in Federal taxes by motorists, we would see an extra \$360 million returned to the State this year.

"This would fully-fund construction of the much-needed 11.5km Thornlie rail line extension in just a single year and could be used to build another 12 kilometres of passenger rail every year after that. This is almost the equivalent length of the Midland rail line each year," Mr Golsby said.

"Investing in regional roads like the Bunbury Outer Ring Road could be paid for in just two years.

"Perth is well on its way to becoming the most congested capital city in the country. In a mere 15 years' time, Infrastructure Australia predicts seven out of the 10 most congested roads in the country will be in Perth, and congestion will cost more than \$16 billion a year by 2031."

Per capita, more road fatalities occur on WA roads than any other state. In 2014 alone, one person on average was killed on WA roads every two days.

"WA urgently needs a fairer distribution of funding and the State Government must also support this position by ensuring that projects are being put forward that are ready to be funded, and delivered.

"RAC released its top 10 Federal infrastructure priorities and policies for Western Australia earlier this year and these projects could be achieved sooner if WA received its fair share."

RAC's Federal priorities can be found [here](#).

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