

Media Release

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Mid-year review must not deliver more burdens on commuters

The State Government's mid-year review should not be used as an avenue to increase the financial burden on WA motorists and public transport users.

RAC General Manager Corporate Affairs, Will Golsby, said the mid-year review is a timely reminder that the last two State Budgets have increased the financial burden on commuters.

“The 2014/15 State Budget delivered a hit to motorists’ hip pockets with motor vehicle registration, licencing and Compulsory Third Party Insurance costs increasing by around 12 per cent,” Mr Golsby said.

“This was extremely disappointing and a clear deviation from the State Government’s pre-election commitment that any increases to the cost of motoring would be kept at or below the cost of inflation.”

The 2014/15 budget also delivered a double blow for Western Australians with a four per cent increase in public transport fares, which were again increased by 2.42 per cent in the 2015/16 budget.

Investment in WA’s infrastructure is critical with Perth 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.

“This is why RAC is also consistently calling for a fairer share of infrastructure funding from the Federal Government to support transport projects across Western Australia.

“To meet the demands being placed on our State, we also urgently need a fairer deal from Canberra.”

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.

“Our regional transport networks also need increased funding to improve safety and efficiency.”

Between 2012 and 2026, the regional local government areas of the City of Bunbury, City of Albany, and City of Greater Geraldton are expected to experience population increases of up to 15, 22 and 29 per cent respectively.

“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.”

Media contact: Georgina Forde 0401 703 719