

RAC Public Policy

2020-21



For the better

About RAC

RAC is a voice for more than 1.1 million members across more than 60 per cent of Western Australian households and speaks out on the road safety, transport, land use and air quality challenges facing Western Australia (WA).

Since our foundation more than 115 years ago, RAC has existed to be a driving force for a Better WA by championing change that will deliver transport options that are safe, more sustainable and that better connect Western Australians and their communities now and in the future.

RAC aligns its activities with the following three themes:

- » **Safe mobility** is vital to the wellbeing of Western Australians.
- » **Sustainable mobility** meets the social, environmental and economic needs of current and future generations.
- » **Connected mobility** supports vibrant and liveable communities.

We reinvest our profits for the benefit of our members, by supporting several major sponsorship programs such as RAC's Rescue Helicopters, as well as several demonstration trials and projects such as the RAC Automated Vehicle Program, electric bike trials and Shared Path Lighting Review.

About our Public Policy

RAC advocates for all Western Australians, whether they are a driver, passenger, public transport user, cyclist, motorcycle rider or pedestrian.

This document outlines what we stand for and our public policy positions to support better mobility for Western Australians.

The policies in this document are approved by the RAC Council.



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1. Safe mobility

No matter how we choose to move around WA, we should be safe in doing so. » The number of people being killed and seriously injured on WA's roads is unacceptable. No-one should have to suffer the devastating impact of road trauma. » In line with WA's road safety strategy, we must align to the Safe System approach which is, safe road use, safe roads and roadsides, safe speeds and safe vehicles¹. » All of us have a responsibility to ensure our roads and transport system are safe for everyone.

1.1 Governance

There must be a renewed and improved commitment to significantly reduce the number of Western Australians killed and seriously injured on our roads.

Road safety must be a social, health and economic priority for WA.

1.1.1 Decision making

Policy decisions on road safety should be consistent with the 'Safe System' approach and efforts to reduce road trauma should focus on the core Safe System principles.

An effective and transparent governance structure, supported by shared and measurable key performance indicators (KPIs), is essential.

KPIs must be supported by clearly defined responsibilities and established milestones which are monitored with reports provided to Parliament.

The WA Road Safety Commissioner should report to a joint parliamentary standing committee rather than a Minister, to enhance bipartisan leadership.

A stronger, bolder and more collaborative approach should be adopted by government agencies to progress road safety solutions and this should be done in a timely and proactive manner.

There must be more formal arrangements to identify and facilitate the sharing of best practice policy and monitoring and evaluation of expenditure on, and the outcomes of infrastructure investments, programs and initiatives with a focus on road safety.

The appointment of a panel of three road safety experts to judge the merits of Road Trauma Trust Account (RTTA) submissions, offer policy advice to the Commissioner and to serve on the Road Safety Council is supported.

The establishment of a national parliamentary standing committee is supported to ensure a whole-of-government approach and improve transparency around government action on road safety.

1.1.2 Road safety data

The establishment of cohesive and comparable data collection mechanisms allowing local, State and Federal Government agencies to benchmark both statistics and programs against shared KPIs and metrics to explicitly track and measure reduction in road trauma is essential.

1.1.3 Funding

Allocation of road safety funding should prioritise evidence-based initiatives, or initiatives which can result in the greatest gains to improve road trauma outcomes and must be at a scale necessary to make a significant, tangible impact.

Road safety spending should require accountable and measurable outcome monitoring evaluations.

To enhance transparency and accountability, all RTTA funded projects and their outcomes should be published on the Road Safety Commission website and referenced appropriately in its Annual Report.

1.2 Safe road use

Road user behaviour such as inattention, speeding, and impaired driving are some significant causes of road trauma. All road users, irrespective of their mode of travel, have a responsibility to use roads, shared paths and footpaths, responsibly and legally.

1.2.1 Enforcement

Enforcement of the *Road Traffic Act 1974* (WA) and other related legislation is critical to making the road network safer.

Penalties

Unsafe and illegal road, footpath and shared path use by all users should be subject to enforcement and penalties should appropriately reflect the seriousness of the offence.

Penalties should reinforce safe and responsible road user behaviour and should be reviewed every two years.

¹ Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities (2011), 'The Safe System Approach, Safe System Principles'. Accessed at: <https://roadsafety.gov.au/hrss/safe-system.aspx>

Red-light and speed cameras

The use of red-light and speed cameras, including point to point, is supported as a deterrent measure. All revenue from camera infringements should continue to be re-invested into road safety.

Double demerits

Double demerit points targeting periods of high traffic volume and increased road trauma are supported. Such periods should be actively communicated in advance.

Police performance

Publishing of Western Australia Police Force traffic enforcement metrics and outcomes is supported to improve the community understanding of the rationale for traffic enforcement.

Minimum passing distance

Appropriate cycling infrastructure is not always available, and cyclists have the right to share the roads. RAC supports the safe passing laws offering increased protection to cyclists using the roads.

Intersection priority for vulnerable road users

Government should investigate measures to reduce crashes involving vulnerable road users, including legislative changes to provide this group greater priority and safety at all intersections.

Slow down, move over

First responders, drivers and passengers have a right to be protected while rendering and receiving assistance at the roadside in the event of a crash or incident.

RAC supported introduction of the Slow Down, Move Over law, which requires motorists to reduce speed to a maximum of 40km/h when passing incident response vehicles with flashing lights and, where possible and safe to do so, move to the next lane. Enforcement and awareness raising activities are important to encourage ongoing compliance.

Lane splitting and filtering

Government should clarify legislation relating to lane splitting and lane filtering to assist and reinforce with motorcycle riders and drivers the dangers posed by certain manoeuvres and encourage safe riding behaviours.

Implementation of the Australian road rule allowing motorcycle riders to pass traffic travelling under 30km/h is supported. Legislation should however prohibit lane splitting, where motorcycle riders weave through traffic at higher speeds.

1.2.2 Education

Road user education and the development of driving skills are critical to making the road network safer.

School-based education

Driver and road safety education should be a compulsory part of the school curriculum.

Primary school road safety education should focus on safe road use as pedestrians, cyclists and riders of small-wheeled mobility devices such as scooters.

Secondary school education should focus on preparing young people to become responsible road users. Pre-driver programs such as Keys4Life, which help learners to become safe drivers, are supported.

Appropriate training must be available to those who deliver road safety education.

Post-licence education

Drivers and riders should be encouraged to undertake post-licence driver training courses aimed at improving safe road use.

Employers should take a proactive role in ensuring their employees are aware of their responsibility to drive in a safe and legal manner. This should include instruction on the effects of fatigue, distraction, speed, and the effects of alcohol and/or drugs.

A comprehensive suite of intervention, rehabilitation and education programs that address illegal road use behaviour, reflecting the seriousness and recurrence of the offence, should be mandatory for sentenced offenders.

Community awareness

Government should fund community education campaigns and school education programs which raise awareness of major road safety issues such as speed, driver inattention and drink and drug driving, and focus on the shared responsibility of road users.

1.2.3 Alcohol and other drugs

Operating a vehicle while impaired by alcohol or legal and illicit drugs places the driver/rider and other road users at increased risk.

Penalties

Drink and drug driving should be subject to rigorous enforcement and strong penalties to reflect the seriousness of the offence, with tougher penalties for low-level and first-time offences aligning WA with other States.

Penalties should reinforce the message that such behaviour is dangerous and should be reviewed every two years.

Repeat offenders should face stronger penalties and be required to undertake counselling and/or education before having their driver's licence reinstated.

The use of alcohol interlocks for drink driving offenders is supported with the cost preferably to be borne by the offender.

Enforcement

Government should adequately resource the Western Australia Police Force to allow them to undertake continuous, high-profile drink and drug driving enforcement activities.

The Western Australia Police Force should be resourced to test a minimum amount equal to 1.5 breath tests per licenced driver per year.



The Western Australia Police Force should be resourced to increase the volume and range of random and targeted drug testing year on year. Until a national consensus is developed on the number of tests per driver and rider per year, the WA testing rate should aim to be higher than the national average.

The Western Australia Police Force should be resourced to conduct targeted enforcement campaigns to suit rural and regional settings.

1.2.4 Licensing

Drivers and riders of vehicles have a legal obligation to hold a current licence to drive.

Penalties

Those who drive or ride without a valid driver's licence should be subject to penalties which reflect the seriousness of the offence.

Novice

A graduated licensing system including graduated demerit points for young road users is supported.

Learners should undertake supervised driving under a range of conditions including urban and regional roads, busy and quiet streets, different times of the day, and in wet weather.

Increasing supervised hours in the learner phase reduces crash risk when a full licence is gained, and an increase in mandatory supervised hours to bring WA in line with other States (between 100 and 120 hours prior to undertaking the Practical Driving Assessment) is supported.

Driving school instructors should be required to undertake mandatory training to a minimum Certificate IV standard.

Government should investigate, facilitate and actively promote a range of initiatives, including Keys2drive, to support both novice drivers and their non-professional supervisors in meeting the requirements of the graduated licensing system. This must include initiatives to enable disadvantaged groups to access cars and supervisors.

Extraordinary licence

The issuing of extraordinary licences, enabled by section 27 of the *Road Traffic (Authorisation to Drive) Act 2008 (WA)*, to people who have either received an immediate licence disqualification or a licence suspension due to the accumulation of demerit points, is not supported.

Fitness to drive

Fitness to drive is determined by the ability of the road user to use their vehicle in a manner which does not place them and other road users at increased risk.

Persons with a condition, medical or physical, which could impair their ability to drive, should be required to advise appropriate authorities of their condition. Medical practitioners should ensure that an accurate assessment of the effect on driving is reached, before informing appropriate authorities.

Where it is safe to do so, drivers with conditions should be helped to keep their driver's licence as it underpins their personal mobility and access to health, social and community opportunities.

Governments should take an active role in supporting members of the community to continue having an active and independent lifestyle particularly if driving ceases to be an option.

Governments should also implement an agreed plan to provide appropriate and affordable transport modes and services.

1.2.5 Inattention

Inattention, be it deliberate or not, is a significant cause of road trauma and the number of deaths and serious injuries is comparable to speeding and/or drink driving. In particular, road users will be subject to significant distraction when using mobile phones, or hand-held/wearable connected devices.

Penalties

Penalties for the use of devices which cause driver inattention and distraction should be subject to rigorous enforcement and strong penalties to reflect the seriousness of the offence.

Penalties for mobile phone use in particular should reinforce the message that such behaviour is dangerous and should be reviewed every two years.

Repeat offenders should face stronger penalties and be required to undertake counselling and/or education before being permitted to return to the roads.

All revenue from mobile phone infringements issued by a police officer should be directed to the RTTA.

Enforcement

All road users should act to eliminate any distractions and to obey laws relating to the use of mobile phones, visual display units or other connected devices.

The increased use of covert police motorcycles and camera-based mobile phone detection technologies to deter and penalise the use of mobile phones or hand-held electronic devices is supported.

Technological developments

Vehicle manufacturers, telecommunication providers and after-market equipment suppliers should consider the road safety implications when designing and placing new technology which could potentially distract vehicle operators.

Vehicle information screens and interfaces which minimise driver distraction should be incorporated by vehicle manufacturers at the design stages of vehicle development.

Technologies which can minimise or prevent mobile devices from distracting road users from the driving task, including blocking the signal to driver devices, should be actively deployed. However, this should not prohibit the use of critical safety technologies, such as automatic crash notification systems.

In-vehicle technology with proven safety benefits should be incorporated into the Australian Design Rules (ADRs) over time.

1.3 Safe vehicles

Advancements in, and adoption of, vehicle safety technologies which help avoid crashes or reduce crash severity will help reduce road trauma.

1.3.1 Motor vehicle standards

All vehicles, regardless of age, should be of the highest safety standards if they are to be driven on Western Australian roads. RAC does not insure or finance any vehicles manufactured from 2012 onwards which have been rated by the Australasian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP) and do not achieve safety ratings of 4 or 5 stars.

Australian Design Rules

Australia's vehicle safety standards are outlined in the ADRs and apply to all new vehicles. Currently, the adoption of critical safety technologies within ADRs is protracted and lags the market. ADRs must be more frequently reviewed to consider advancements in safety technologies, such as blind spot monitoring and Intelligent Speed Adaptation, to ensure the Australian community can realise the reduced road trauma benefits sooner than it currently does.

At a minimum, all new passenger and light commercial vehicles on sale in the Australian market should have autonomous emergency braking systems, rear cameras and head protecting side airbags for all seating rows as mandatory safety features. New vehicles should integrate safety features designed to protect vulnerable road users in the event of a crash and seatbelt reminders for all seating positions should be standard.

New motor vehicles

ANCAP rates the safety credentials of new vehicles. Western Australians should be encouraged to purchase new vehicles with a 5-star ANCAP safety rating.

It should be mandatory for all vehicles tested by ANCAP to display their ANCAP star rating at the point of sale and in associated sales and promotional material.

Targets should be set for the reduction in age of the Australian vehicle fleet, and also for the take up of 5-star ANCAP vehicles to improve road safety outcomes.

New driver-assist and automated vehicle technologies should continue to be progressively included in assessments performed through ANCAP.

Government should remove tariffs and charges to reduce the cost and therefore improve access to more modern vehicles with more advanced safety features, including vehicles with 5-star ANCAP safety ratings.

Used vehicles

Used cars should undergo an independent vehicle inspection when there is a change of ownership.

The Used Car Safety Ratings measure the vehicle safety performance of used vehicles utilising data from police reports of real-world crashes. When purchasing a used vehicle, buyers should be encouraged to purchase vehicles with 5-star Used Car Safety Ratings.

Automated vehicles

Automated vehicles and driver-assist features have the potential to reduce the number of road fatalities and the severity of some injuries. However, care needs to be taken to ensure drivers use these features appropriately and that they do not inadvertently increase driver distraction, inattention or complacency.

Government should take a role in leading initiatives to support innovation, as well as facilitate and regulate these technologies to encourage deployment and uptake, and realisation of safety benefits.

Trials to better understand automated vehicle technology should be promoted and supported by government and industry.

Regulation relating to automated vehicles should prioritise safety and align with road safety strategies aiming to achieve zero road deaths and serious injuries.

Fleet and commercial vehicles

Governments should help to accelerate introduction of safer vehicles in the passenger fleet by continuing to require all government fleet purchases of passenger and light commercial vehicles to have ANCAP ratings of 5 stars. The WA Government Fleet Policy and Guidelines should specify a maximum age of five years for fleet vehicles, to encourage turnover to not only provide government employees with access to newer, safer vehicles but also the broader community through earlier resale of former fleet vehicles.

Industry should be actively encouraged to implement fleet policies which require that all passenger and light commercial vehicles are 5-star ANCAP rated.

Professional driving instruction should be provided only in vehicles with a 5-star ANCAP safety rating.

1.3.2 Motorcycle standards

Advancements in vehicle safety technologies which help avoid crashes or reduce the severity of crashes will help reduce road trauma.

Australian Design Rules

Australia's motorcycle safety standards are outlined in the ADRs and apply to all new vehicles. Vehicle standards must be actively reviewed and introduced to motorcycles to improve their safety and efficiency.

New motorcycles should be fitted with motorcycle stability control, where appropriate, to increase safety and reduce motorcycle crashes.

Protective clothing

The Federal Government should support and promote the CRASH and MotoCAP star rating systems for motorcycle helmets and protective clothing to provide motorcycle riders with consistent and comparable information on the levels of protection. These ratings should be communicated at the point of sale and in the associated sales and promotional material.

Motorcycle riders and cyclists should be encouraged to wear high visibility clothing/gear.

1.3.3 Personal Mobility Devices (PMDs)

Uptake of powered PMDs, such as electric motorised scooters, as well as electric bikes (eBikes) can promote greater mobility through increased choice.

Regulation and standards

In order to better facilitate safe technology in a growing market, government should develop and adopt vehicle safety standards and policies which appropriately consider interaction with other road users and support the increased uptake of PMDs.

Users of PMDs have a responsibility to do so in a manner appropriate to the conditions and to ensure their device complies with the relevant legislation in WA, including currently being limited to 10km/h when being propelled by the motor only. The power-assisted speed of eBikes must not exceed 25km/h.

Trials of emerging PMDs, such as electric motorised scooters that do not comply with current regulations, are supported to refine the legal framework to ensure their safe use. Such trials should be guided by existing regulations for electric bikes, with on-road use restricted to streets that are 50km/h or slower. Trials should be supported by public awareness and education campaigns, as well as enforcement, to enhance safety for riders and vulnerable road users.

1.3.4 Seatbelts/child restraints

Seatbelts and child restraints can prevent death and reduce the severity of injury². All vehicle occupants must comply with seatbelt regulations.

Penalties

Penalties for failing to comply with this requirement should reflect the seriousness of the offence and the heightened road safety risk.

Penalties for not wearing seatbelts should reinforce the message that such behaviour is dangerous and should be reviewed every two years. Repeat offenders should face stronger penalties.

Enforcement

Government should adequately resource the Western Australia Police Force to allow them to undertake continuous, high-profile seatbelt enforcement activities.

Government should promote the importance of the proper use of seatbelts, and child and pet restraints through regular community awareness campaigns and the provision and promotion of child restraint fitting and checking services.

² World Health Organisation (2009), 'The need for seat-belts and child restraints'. Accessed at: https://www.who.int/roadsafety/projects/manuals/seatbelt/seat_belt_manual_module_1.pdf



To significantly reduce serious crashes occurring on poor quality roads such as this, RAC has called on government to fund a nine-year, \$900 million Regional Road Safety Package to upgrade 17,000km of our road network with effective low-cost safety treatments including sealed shoulders and audible edge lines.

1.4 Safe roads and roadsides

The design and condition of roads and roadsides can affect the chance of having a crash and in the event of a crash, the level of severity. Safety for all road users is strongly linked to road and roadside design.

1.4.1 Road design

Road planning and design should take into account the needs of all users including motorcycle riders, cyclists, pedestrians and people with mobility difficulties, as well as the function of the road or street.

Design standards

To create safer streets and places, a review of urban road and street design standards and guidance is supported to prioritise a user hierarchy that seeks to protect the most vulnerable users, first.

Standards and guidelines should recognise the differing roles and functions of roads and streets and ensure that design is context sensitive and considers all road users, the street environment, and adjacent land use.

Designing roads and streets to be self-explaining and self-enforcing is supported to promote appropriate traffic speeds and more consistent road user behaviours. This could negate the need to 'over design' roads and streets, for example designing for a speed limit of 60km/h when the posted speed limit will be 50km/h, which can encourage higher operating speeds.

The Australasian Road Assessment Program (AusRAP) rates the safety of roads. All new roads should be built to a minimum 4-star AusRAP rating. All existing major regional routes should be upgraded to a minimum 3-star AusRAP rating.

Design standards should be regularly updated to reflect the outcomes of scheme monitoring, new research, innovation and technology.

Road maintenance

All levels of government should invest and commit to long term programs in order to maintain and raise safety standards across the road network and to reduce WA's road maintenance backlog.

1.4.2 Preventative remedial measures

Roadsides should be treated in such a manner which can reduce the severity of crashes.

Roadside protection

The risk or severity of a crash can increase if obstacles such as poles, trees, embankments and ditches are in areas adjacent to the roadway, particularly on high speed roads. Mitigation measures such as sealed shoulders, roadside barriers and audible edge lines should be implemented across as much of the regional network as possible, prioritising areas where there is a record of road crashes or where a high crash risk has been identified.

In lower speed environments such as urban streets, tree planting on verges or between on-street parking bays can have many benefits including enhancing amenity, aesthetics and safety by encouraging slower traffic speeds.

Intersection protection

Government should commit to trialling innovative approaches in designing, or re-designing, intersections, particularly on local roads and in relation to better speed management and prioritisation for vulnerable road users to enhance safety and amenity.

Dynamic digital billboards

Advertising on dynamic digital billboards which attract attention to something other than the driving task and can reduce driver attention are not supported, particularly on freeways and highways and on major arterial roads where speeds can exceed 80km/h.

1.5 Safe speeds

Impact speed (which is a product of travel speed) is arguably the most influential factor determining the outcome of a crash. Designing roads to reflect the intended travel speed and to be more forgiving of mistakes, as well as setting speed limits which reflect the road environment and that consider the tolerances of the human body will reduce the incidence of speed-related fatalities and serious injuries. This must also be supported by appropriate penalties and levels of enforcement.

1.5.1 Speed limits

The human body is fragile and biomechanical tolerances for different crash types and situations vary. The speed after which the chance of a fatality or serious injury rapidly increases is around 30km/h for pedestrians, cyclists and motorcycle riders. As a result, the fatality risk for pedestrians being hit at 50km/h becomes approximately double that of being hit at 40km/h and approximately five times as great as being hit at 30km/h. Similarly, the speeds after which the chances of fatality of serious injury rapidly increases for vehicle occupants are up to 70km/h for head-on car crashes.

Setting speed limits

In line with the Safe System approach, speed limit setting should take into account the threshold of physical resistance of the human body to the energy released during a crash (which is related to the impact speed).

A framework and near-term deadlines for reviewing and setting speed limits across the road network that reflect the tolerances of the human body and prioritises safety performance above network efficiency is supported. This should be accompanied by appropriate road/street design and enforcement strategies to ensure safer speeds.

The setting of speed limits should require the parallel engagement of relevant local government councils/road authorities.

Communication of speed limits

Road users should be able to understand why speeds have been set for different road types and situations which, in turn, help them drive appropriately to the conditions.

Speed zones should be clearly signed at regular intervals. Efforts should be made to avoid frequent changes in speed zones, where there is no obvious change to the road environment or design, or to adjacent land uses.

Government should more personally engage communities in understanding the need for safer speeds through ongoing, high profile and wide-reaching education.

Targeted speed reduction

To improve safety and amenity for all road users, targeted trialling and implementation of speed limit reductions is supported for urban areas of high pedestrian/bicycle activity, residential streets, or for roads with a high crash record or identified crash risk.

A speed limit of 30km/h for the State Government's 'Safe Active Streets', as well as for school zones where the road conditions and design support lower speeds, is supported in recognition of the tolerance to impact attributed to vulnerable road users.

A temporary reduction of the speed limit on unsealed roads or roads with an AusRAP star rating (or equivalent methodology) of two or less, is supported until remedial measures can be undertaken.

A reduction in the default speed limit to 100km/h should be implemented to target fatalities and serious injuries on regional roads. Where road design and conditions are appropriate, a 110km/h limit may remain in place for selected roads and these must be signed accordingly.

1.5.2 Speeding

Exceeding the posted speed limit and driving without full regard for the road environment and conditions significantly increases the risk of crash, serious injury and fatality.

Penalties

Fines and demerit point penalties for speeding offences should reflect the seriousness of the offence.

Penalties for speeding should reinforce the message that such behaviour is dangerous and should be reviewed every two years. Repeat offenders should face stronger penalties.

Excessive speeding, at 30km/h or more above the speed limit, should attract a penalty of loss of licence for a period of three months for a first offence (and longer for 45km/h or more), bringing WA more in line with other leading jurisdictions.

The speeding offence for not more than 9km/h should result in the loss of demerit points.

All revenue from speeding infringements given by a police officer should be directed to the RTTA.

Enforcement

Speed enforcement requires a range of strategies including fixed and mobile, overt and covert, as well as dual red-light speed cameras and point to point technology.

Speed cameras should be placed in areas with an identified road safety problem, high pedestrian activity or a history of speeding behaviour.

Speed and red-light camera revenue

All revenue from speed and red-light camera infringements should continue to be re-invested into programs and initiatives to improve road safety outcomes.

2. Sustainable mobility

The mobility choices we make today should not impact negatively on the lifestyle and choices of future generations. » Vehicles emit a range of gaseous pollutants that are harmful to the environment and our health. Transport is a major source of noxious and greenhouse gas emissions³ and thousands of Australian lives are lost each year due to air pollution exposure⁴. » We need renewable and clean energy policy supporting alternative technologies and fuels, initiatives targeting vehicle purchasing decisions, congestion management and the promotion of public and active transport, as well as planning and design practices that support connected, liveable communities.

2.1 Governance

There must be a clear strategic direction for Australian, and Western Australian transport energy policy backed by appropriate investments that will protect the environment and health of our communities.

2.1.1 Decision making

Strong leadership and credible policy decisions on transport emissions should be consistent with Australia's international commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 26 to 28 per cent on 2005 levels by 2030⁵.

The development and implementation of a bold and ambitious, whole of government, State Climate Policy and roadmap that will minimise, and seek to reverse, the devastating impact of climate change on WA's current and future communities is essential to support a transition to a thriving, resilient, low carbon economy.

A robust strategy is essential to deliver emissions reductions associated with vehicle use. An effective and transparent governance structure, supported by appropriate accountability and reporting mechanisms/measures, such as shared and measurable KPIs (including around CO₂ and noxious vehicle emissions), is essential to ensure increased collaboration across government agencies.

The reform of the WA planning system should seek to mitigate potential adverse implications of planning, development and infrastructure decisions on climate change and public health.

An effective Air Quality Management Plan for WA is essential to minimise the impacts of pollution from vehicle emissions on the health of our communities.

2.1.2 Emissions and air quality data

The establishment of cohesive and comparable data collection mechanisms allowing government agencies to benchmark and track air pollutant levels and changes in air quality is essential.

Current approaches to monitoring vehicle emissions in WA should be reviewed and the release of this information improved.

2.2 Cleaner and healthier air

Efforts should be made to reduce harmful vehicle emissions in line with international benchmarks by addressing each of the factors that impact emissions. RAC offers a range of rewards to people who drive a lower emissions car through the Less Emissions Mission which provides discounts on products and services and other benefits.

2.2.1 Vehicle emissions standards

The introduction of an impactful national light vehicle CO₂ emissions standard is supported, aligning Australia with the rest of the developed world.

2.2.2 Fuel

The quality and availability of the vehicle fuels and alternative, cleaner energy sources available in Australia impacts the level of vehicle emissions and the extent to which the latest engine technologies available elsewhere can be adopted.

Fuel quality and standards

Ensuring there are appropriate fuel quality standards in Australia is supported to address vehicle emissions across the entire fleet, and to ensure Australia is able to adopt 'cleaner' vehicle technologies and more efficient engines which are available internationally.

³ Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (2019), 'Climate Change in Western Australia - Issues Paper'. Accessed at: https://consult.dwerwa.gov.au/climatechange/issues-paper/user_uploads/climate-change-in-wa_2019.pdf

⁴ AIHW (2019), 'Australian Burden of Disease Study: Impact and causes of illness and death in Australia, 2015'. Accessed at: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/burden-of-disease/burden-disease-study/illness-death-2015/contents/table-of-contents>.



Reducing harmful fuel components such as sulfur and aromatics, while also increasing octane levels, can directly impact vehicle emissions, air quality and public health. Government should consider implementing the decrease in allowable sulfur content in fuel, from 150ppm to 10ppm earlier than the anticipated start date of 2027 to align with the current limit in jurisdictions such as Europe, North America and China.

A long-term pathway for the widespread use of higher-octane fuels like 95 RON and 98 RON and the removal of low octane fuel, 91 RON, from sale in Australia, is supported.

Fuel alternatives

Governments should adopt policies that encourage the use of a wide mix of power and fuel systems to enhance consumer choice and reduce dependence on fossil fuels, including facilitating an ongoing shift to renewable energy generation.

Fuel offsets

Investment in carbon offsets (such as Gold Standard Voluntary Emission Reduction units or Australian Carbon Credit units) to mitigate remaining greenhouse gas emissions that cannot be abated is supported.

2.2.3 Low and zero emission vehicles

To drive the transition to cleaner transport, action to facilitate increased uptake of low and zero emissions vehicles is required.

Targets

Government should set ambitious targets for WA's low and zero emission vehicle fleet, uptake and charging infrastructure delivery.

Incentives

Government should explore a range of incentives and taxation exemptions and subsidies, reflective of the reduced levels of emissions and the comparatively high cost of purchase, to increase low and zero emissions vehicle uptake.

Education and awareness

Campaigns and information which help motorists understand and manage the energy consumption of their vehicle and reduce greenhouse gas emissions are supported. This includes purchasing vehicles that produce lower or zero emissions, as well as using more sustainable and active modes of transport.

Ratings at the point of sale

Government should ensure consumers have access to emissions and fuel consumption information at the point of sale, via an effective ratings system, when making new car purchasing decisions.

Fleet and commercial vehicles

Governments should help accelerate the introduction of more fuel-efficient vehicles by purchasing low and zero emissions vehicles for government fleets and encouraging employees and other businesses to do the same.

Public transport fleet

Government should continue to retire high emissions buses and transition to an operational fleet powered by the most sustainable energy sources, including hybrid, all-electric and hydrogen.

Infrastructure

The expansion of public low and zero emission vehicle charging facilities is supported. Government should develop a plan for charging infrastructure requirements and availability, and ongoing installation of publicly available charging infrastructure across Perth and regional WA to support uptake and alleviate range anxiety.

Sale of electricity

Government should review the legislative frameworks with a focus on mechanisms for the sale of electricity to the WA public, for the purposes of enabling publicly available electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Innovation and technological developments

The continued investment in cost-effective low carbon and cleaner automotive technologies by the motor vehicle manufacturing industry, across a range of vehicle characteristics is supported. This includes more affordable and efficient electric and hybrid drivetrains, alternative fuel sources and more efficient liquid fuelled drivetrains.

2.3 Transport system funding

To deliver, operate and maintain a high-quality transport system, fair, effective and sustainable funding streams are required.

2.3.1 Taxation

The inefficient collection and distribution of taxation can delay the development and maintenance of the transport system.

Expenditure

All levels of government share the responsibility to provide a safe, well-designed, well-maintained and efficient transport system.

Consistently, at least half of all revenue raised from motorists through tariffs, stamp duties, registrations, licence fees, fuel excise, GST and the like should be reinvested in improving the safety and efficiency of the transport system.

The State Government should investigate the distribution of revenue collected from all vehicle licensing fees, which are currently paid to the Main Roads Trust Account, to ensure it reflects government priorities across all modes of transport, with a view to increasing the proportion directed towards active and public transport, and road safety measures.

2.3.2 Funding model

A range of funding models and options need to be explored to ensure a high-quality transport system now, and into the future.

Road user charging

Governments should consult on and develop a new road user charging model to replace the existing public fees and charges used to generate revenue.

A road user charge should only be implemented as a part of genuine reform of taxation on road users.

Area cordon charges which charge vehicles entering a defined area, and/or toll roads should only be considered as part of a broader reform of taxation on motorists and should not be imposed on top of the existing fuel excise, stamp duty and GST charges.

A rigorous cost-benefit analysis of the social, economic and environmental impacts of any potential road user charge should be undertaken before such a charge is considered.

Federal fuel excise should be reformed as part of the broader reform of taxation on motorists.

The allocation of Federal Government funds to WA should be increased to recognise the unique challenges faced in building, maintaining and operating the transport system in this State.

Alternative funding models

Government should investigate appropriate alternative sources of funding essential transport infrastructure, including those appropriate for regional areas, and opportunities to encourage contributions through the development contributions framework and value capture mechanisms. This should include considerations of exploring a range of funding options for public transport and cycling infrastructure projects.

3. Connected mobility

Western Australians need to be able to move easily around their communities, using a range of private, public and shared transport options, and to feel socially connected. » We must ensure planning and design practices support vibrant and liveable communities and that our transport system caters for the increasing demands of a growing population to support economic growth of the State. » Transport must be affordable and accessible for all, regardless of ability.

3.1 Governance

There must be a clear strategic direction for WA's transport system, backed by appropriate investments, that enables vibrant and liveable communities.

3.1.1 Decision making

A robust and fully funded integrated transport plan is essential to provide a clear strategic direction for WA's transport system and land use integration to create connected communities.

Reform of the WA planning system to ensure it is more strategically-led and transparent is supported to enable more effective planning, development, and transport infrastructure decisions to support the sustainable growth of Perth and WA.

The community should be empowered and engaged through the planning system, at appropriate stages, to enhance the outcomes of planning and development decisions at a neighbourhood and local level.

Robust assessment and evaluation of transport projects to help facilitate informed budgetary decision making and achieve the best outcomes from public expenditure is supported.

Cost benefit analyses, which include non-monetised benefits, and business cases for major and high value transport projects should be publicly available.

Infrastructure Australia (IA)

IA, as the nation's independent infrastructure advisor, should take a leadership role in proactively facilitating the identification and prioritisation of nationally significant initiatives and projects based on the audits conducted and findings from its research activities.

In identifying transport infrastructure needs and investment priorities, moving away from the outdated 'predict and provide' approach (where future travel demand is forecast based on historic trends) to a forward-looking 'vision and validate' model is supported to achieve desired liveability and productivity outcomes.

Infrastructure WA (IWA)

The establishment of IWA as an independent statutory body (providing expert advice to government on the infrastructure needs and priorities for WA) was supported to help ensure transparent and evidence-based investment decision making.

A long-term infrastructure strategy, which includes prioritised project proposals and has undergone rigorous stakeholder, industry and community consultation, should be made publicly available and inform the State and Federal Government's transport plans to guide infrastructure planning, assessment and prioritisation.

All IWA strategies, plans, reports, publications and advice to government should be tabled in Parliament and made publicly available, along with any direction given by the Premier to IWA and government responses to IWA documents.

Parliamentary budget office

The establishment of an independent parliamentary budget office to provide policy costing and advisory services to all Members of the Parliament of WA is supported to improve the accuracy and transparency of costings for policies and election commitments.

3.1.2 Transport data

Information about how transport networks are used and performing is of vital importance to inform infrastructure and service planning and investment decisions.

The establishment of cohesive and comparable data collection mechanisms allowing State Government agencies to benchmark both statistics and programs against shared KPIs, to explicitly track and measure usage and performance, is supported.

3.2 Affordable mobility

Increases in the cost of transport can add pressure to already strained household budgets.

3.2.1 Collection of motorist taxation

Taxation and other revenue collection imposed on road users should be fair, equitable and transparent.

Any increase to the cost of motoring should be kept at or below the cost of inflation.

3.2.2 Fuel and electricity

A competitive and transparent market for petroleum and electricity products best serves the interests of consumers.

Market competition

Government should continue to monitor industry and relevant markets to protect the interest of consumers and guard against anti-competitive pricing behaviour.

The State Government should continue to provide the FuelWatch scheme to monitor prices and enable consumers to make informed choices as to when and where to purchase fuel at the most competitive prices.

Market regulation

Regulation of industry sectors (generation, refining, wholesaling, distribution and retailing) should ensure ongoing transparency of pricing and costs that are easily accessible and understandable to the average consumer.

The State Government should monitor excessive differences between metropolitan and regional prices.

Fuel labelling

All retail establishments should, as a minimum, clearly indicate the retail prices of Unleaded Petrol (ULP), Diesel and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) (where available) sold at the site, exclusive of any discount. Displaying discounted prices in addition to retail prices is at the discretion of the retailer but a discounted price should not be displayed in a manner which would make a reasonable motorist believe it is the retail price.

At the pump, inconsistent labelling of the different fuel types can result in 'misfuelling' which in turn can damage vehicles and cause motorists to incur repair costs, as well as have environmental impacts with the unusable mixed fuels. Regulation should be considered that would ensure different fuel types are clearly labelled and consistently colour coded across fuel pumps at all retail outlets.

3.2.3 Public insurance scheme

Owners and drivers of WA licensed vehicles should have affordable access to cover for personal injuries they may have caused or sustained in the event of a motor vehicle crash.

Compulsory motor injury insurance

The no-fault Motor Vehicle Catastrophic Injuries Fund (MVCIF) is supported.

The cost of compulsory motor injury insurance should not add an increasing and unnecessary financial burden on Western Australians. The cost of the MVCIF and Third Party Insurance Fund (TPIF) should be regularly and openly reviewed.

Dividends paid from compulsory motor injury insurance should be directed toward road safety initiatives. Government should report on how any dividends derived from compulsory motor injury insurance have been allocated, with appropriate accountability measures in place.

The Insurance Commission of WA, MVCIF and TPIF should remain government owned.

Insurance for automated vehicles

The establishment and implementation of an appropriate insurance framework is required to protect both automated vehicle occupants and other road users interacting with these vehicles.

3.2.4 Rights of vehicle owners

Vehicle owners, as consumers, have the right to choice and a fair deal when it comes to their vehicles.

As consumers

The rights of motorists as consumers should be protected by appropriate legislation.

All motor vehicle dealers and repairers should be licenced by an appropriate authority and operate within Australian Consumer Law.

Manufacturers, importers and retailers of motoring products should be required to ensure that their products meet the claims made for them. These claims should be supported by product testing carried out under the international protocols on products relevant to the Australian market and its standards.

Repairs

Consumers have the right to choose where to have their vehicle serviced or repaired without any other ownership penalty. Vehicle manufacturers should not imply or lead vehicle owners to believe their vehicle's factory warranty will be affected by having it serviced elsewhere.

Equally, consumers have the right to access data generated by their vehicles. Consumers should be able to use this data to make informed decisions with regards to servicing their vehicles.

Consumers must have adequate coverage for warranty repairs and servicing of their vehicles. Consumers must also be made aware when imported used vehicles do not suit Australian conditions and fuels.

Tools and information required to fully service and repair newer vehicles should be made available by manufacturers to the market at a reasonable price and within a reasonable timeframe. Governments should continue to work towards legislating to ensure the rights of vehicle owners.

Towing

There should be a right to choose a towing company in the event of a crash or breakdown, except where the vehicle is required for evidentiary purposes by the Western Australia Police Force, road authority or where the driver is incapable of making an informed choice.

Vehicle owners should have the right to choose where their vehicle is towed to.

To protect vehicle owners and ensure the cost of motoring is affordable, maximum charges should be established for standard crash and breakdown towing and storage of vehicles. Call-out fees and charges for separate activities incidental to the towing service, such as administrative fees, should be prohibited.

Wheel clamping

The use of wheel clamps and other immobilising devices to detain a vehicle is not supported as a parking management practice.

3.2.5 Public transport fares

Annual increases to fare prices should not exceed the rate of inflation. Concessions and free travel for seniors should be maintained to reduce non-essential private car trips.

A maximum daily and weekly cap on fare payments that provides price certainty to public transport users and encourages greater patronage should be explored.

Discounted fares should be offered for travel during off-peak periods, including weekends and public holidays.

3.2.6 Travel subsidies

The maximum subsidy for the Taxi User Subsidy Scheme (TUSS) should be increased to improve mobility for those with disabilities. Trips under the TUSS should be exempt from the On-demand Passenger Transport Levy.

3.3 Enhanced liveability

Good urban design and well-planned communities which enable better access to transport options and social connectedness are vital for enhanced liveability.

3.3.1 Planning and design of communities

Planning and design undertaken by all levels of government should recognise the critical link between land use and transport activities, and ultimately the implications for liveability.

Transport and land use integration

Planning should ensure the integration of all modes of transport and land use, to ensure the community has access to a range of practical transport options, and to minimise the environmental impacts of mobility.

Land use planning should improve or enhance access within the community whether it is to employment, leisure, social, health and/or recreation opportunities by catering for private and public transport, as well as active transport modes.

The concept of new communities which rely less on motor vehicle transport to access these activities and with reduced car parking is supported.

Strategies such as decentralising employment or urban infill, to reduce the extent and distance people need to travel for work purposes are supported.

Planning and development standards and guidelines should be regularly reviewed to align with and support strategic land use and transport priorities, and to capitalise on technological advances such as automated vehicle technology.

Infill development

Continued urban expansion (or urban sprawl) through development of previously undeveloped “greenfield” sites in the outer suburbs and on the fringes of the metropolitan area, particularly in areas which are not well served by public transport, is undesirable.

Urban infill development to strike a better balance of residents and jobs, particularly in Perth’s central sub-region, is supported to reduce commuting distances and travel demand between the outer and inner areas.

Mixed-use and infill residential and commercial developments of increased densities should primarily be focused around activity centres and public transport hubs. The construction of new rail stations presents a significant opportunity.

Such developments are also supported along high frequency bus, and future rapid transit corridors to encourage increased public transport patronage.

Infill development in existing “brownfield” areas within established suburbs must be sensitive to the character and nature of these areas.

Urban infill must be supported by significant improvements to public transport services and active transport networks and infrastructure to address current connectivity constraints, minimise unnecessary car travel, and cater for multi-modal travel demand to be generated by the State Government’s infill targets.

Universal access

Universal access should be considered and provided to ensure all members of the community have appropriate and easy access to transport and through the public realm.

Social connectedness

Government initiatives that help to enhance social inclusion for all groups and provide opportunities for people to be actively involved in their local communities, are supported to improve the health and wellbeing of residents, as well as neighbourhood liveability.

3.3.2 Roads and congestion

Continued investment in our road network is essential, particularly in maximising the efficiency and safety of existing infrastructure.

There is no single solution to congestion, and to manage it, a suite of options should be employed.

Road upgrades and improvements

Upgrades of the metropolitan road network should be targeted at addressing safety issues first and foremost, with bottlenecks targeted to improve efficiency ahead of providing additional capacity through widening and network expansion.

Regional road investment should prioritise treatments that improve safety and enhance access to regional towns and communities.

Road space allocation, design and operation

The application of 'best practice' road planning, design and operation principles is supported to manage demands for limited road space and ensure safety, efficiency and amenity for all road users.

Decisions about the allocation of road space and operation of the road network should consider both the people movement and place functions of streets and areas, appropriately supporting the prioritisation of different transport modes and integration with surrounding land uses.

Restrictions and hours of operation for bus lanes, clearways and on-road parking should be clearly advertised, for example through visible and legible roadside signage, improved advertising on parking meters and/or with appropriate road markings.

Automated vehicles and supporting infrastructure

In addition to reducing road trauma, automated vehicles have the potential to significantly impact the efficiency and operation of the road network and provide enhanced mobility.

Government should take a role in leading initiatives to regulate and plan for these systems, with a focus on ensuring they complement rather than compete with traditional public transport, and shared use should be encouraged.

Intelligent transportation systems (ITS) solutions

ITS technologies should be integrated into roads, parking and community infrastructure, as well as vehicles and public transport networks to help manage congestion, improve mobility, save lives and optimise the value of existing infrastructure.

ITS technologies should not be used primarily as an enabler for increasing physical road capacity, for example through facilitating the conversion of emergency lanes to general traffic lanes.

Awareness and education

Government should fund public awareness and education campaigns as part of the implementation of new network management technologies and associated road modifications, to enhance road user understanding and facilitate realisation of the safety and efficiency benefits.

3.3.3 Public transport

The public transport system should be efficient, reliable and affordable.

Infrastructure and services

Sustained and widespread investment in improving the quality and coverage of the public transport system is supported. Regular reviews are supported to enhance the quality of public transport service provision. Any cost savings generated through service reviews should be reinvested in the public transport network in the same service area.

An integrated multi-tier public transport system should be provided comprising city-shaping infrastructure such as heavy rail, light rail and bus rapid transit.

Investment in the provision of bus priority measures, such as peak-period bus lanes and priority at traffic signals, to improve the reliability and competitiveness of regular bus services is supported. This may involve the reallocation of road space.

Investigation and trialling of on-demand bus services is supported, particularly to enhance provision in areas where fixed services may not be financially viable such as in regional communities.

The removal of road/rail level crossings is supported to improve public transport efficiency, ease localised congestion and improve safety, but care needs to be taken to ensure good connectivity and accessibility, especially for pedestrians and cyclists.

Governments should investigate the feasibility of, and invest in, improving the frequency, reliability and coverage of public transport services feeding rail stations and key destinations to improve access and help reduce the demand for parking. A combination of regular services, free CAT type services and on-demand services should be considered during different time periods.

The construction or expansion of park and ride facilities at train stations in inner-suburbs is not supported; improved public transport, walking and cycling connections and drop-off provision should be prioritised.

An increased focus by government on ensuring the application of automated vehicle technology to enhance the quality and coverage of urban and regional public transport systems is supported.

Awareness and education

The State Government should fund public awareness and education campaigns to encourage increased patronage.

3.3.4 Cycling

The personal, community, health and economic benefits of cycling are widely recognised and its growing popularity as a means of commuting, and for recreation, is evident.

Funding

Government should set a minimum annual budget percentage allocation for cycling programs.

Infrastructure

For cycling to remain a safe and viable transport option, accelerated investment in infrastructure and education programs that facilitate safer cycling is vital.

In addition to investment in Perth's principal shared path (PSP) network, the availability of appropriate, safe and well-designed on-road facilities is essential to providing improved safety, amenity and connectivity to activity centres, train stations and the PSP network.

To enhance personal safety and amenity for PSP and shared path users, upgrades should be made to ensure surface quality, width and lighting levels meet, and even exceed, relevant standards.

Government should regularly review design standards for both on and off-road cycling infrastructure, such as shared path widths, and pave the way for the trialling of more innovative design approaches. The State Government's Safe Active Streets program (also known as Bike Boulevards) is supported to create safe routes along neighbourhood streets, connecting the wider cycling network and community amenities such as schools, train stations and shops.

The provision of secure end-of-trip facilities for cyclists at public transport hubs and within activity centres and new developments is an important step to encouraging alternative mobility options.

Electric bikes and scooters

The promotion of legal electric bikes and scooters which help make cycling, and personal mobility more generally, a more attractive and practical option for more people and reduce reliance on the car is supported. However, enforcement is required to restrict the use of electric bikes and scooters which do not comply with current regulations.

Regulation

Cyclists and scooter riders who choose to use footpaths and shared paths should do so in a manner that is safe for all users. Cycling/riding on footpaths and shared paths should be managed in areas of high pedestrian demand.

Awareness and education

The State Government should fund public awareness and education campaigns to highlight cycling safety, encourage responsible cycling and promote increased usage of new infrastructure. Funding school-based cycling training will also help to grow cycling participation and build skills and confidence.

3.3.5 Walking

Walking can provide many benefits, and with pedestrians being some of the most vulnerable road users, appropriate infrastructure is essential to support increased levels of walking, including use of motorised mobility scooters or gophers.

Funding

The State Government should provide more strategic direction and allocate dedicated funding and resources to champion the needs of pedestrians.

Infrastructure

Planning and designing cities and communities which provide opportunities for people to integrate physical activity as part of their daily routines, is supported.

To make it safer, easier and more practical to walk, governments and developers need to provide safe and attractive travel routes particularly around schools and activity centres.

Increased investment in high quality, well-designed, connected, legible pedestrian infrastructure is supported, as well as increased priority for pedestrians at traffic signals.

Increased separation is supported in areas where there is potential for conflict between pedestrians and higher speed cyclists to cater for the safety and needs of different user groups.

Awareness and education

The State Government should fund public awareness and education campaigns and training to highlight pedestrian safety and encourage increased physical activity.

3.3.6 Parking

Parking should be managed to provide short term access for the community to services and local amenities, while limiting excessive car travel to help manage congestion.

Supply and management

Parking strategies should provide an appropriate balance between off-street and on-street parking and employ the use of technology solutions to manage demand and minimise traffic circulation.

Off-street parking should be prioritised on roads with high traffic volumes or where there are opportunities to reallocate road space for other uses, such as on-road cycling infrastructure and bus priority measures.

Reduced car parking provision in new developments and activity centres, particularly where there is good public transport accessibility, is supported to help manage congestion.



Revenue

Government taxes placed on parking spaces and parking charges can be important tools in managing travel demand and revenue raised should be re-invested in public transport, cycling and/or walking improvements.

3.3.7 Shared mobility options

Collaborative consumption, as part of the sharing economy, is an economic arrangement whereby people share access to products or services, rather than having individual ownership.

Car/ride sharing

Car sharing and legal ride sharing are supported as a way to supplement existing transport networks, provide improved travel choices, as well as reduce personal costs of travel and the number of vehicles on our roads.

Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS)

Government should widely consult on and develop a plan for the possible future integration of public and private transport services into a single, on-demand mobility service (through a smartphone app/more accessible payment platform to enable public and private service integration, enhanced journey planning, and seamless payments).

3.3.8 Travel demand management

Managing the demand on our transport networks at peak times is a way to manage congestion.

Your Move

Behaviour change programs which encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport and make more efficient use of existing infrastructure are supported.

Travel plans

Preparation of travel plans for major developments is supported to better manage congestion within and around the CBD and activity centres.

Flexible working practices

Where practicable, employers should support flexible working arrangements that help to reduce travel demand during peak times.

3.3.9 Digitisation and data privacy

Open data

To realise the benefits of digitisation and enhance mobility, aggregated and non-identifiable datasets should be regularly and openly shared by government.

Privacy

Individual privacy associated with the collection, storage and use of mobility-related data should be protected and personal and/or sensitive information should be encrypted and de-identified.

Government should consult with industry and the community on a framework(s) around permitted usage of data collected by new and emerging technologies such as automated vehicles to support deployment, encourage community trust and take-up and accelerate benefits realisation.

Investigation of appropriate restrictions on private industry around the use, storage and sharing of personal and sensitive information collected by such new and emerging technologies is supported.

For further information please
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