

RAC Member Priorities Tracker

Cost of transport

In August 2020, 469 of our members¹ took part in a survey telling us about their views on a range of topics relating to the cost and affordability of driving and catching public transport.

Cost of motoring

When thinking about all the costs associated with running their main vehicle²:



Estimate vs actual running costs

Actual annual vehicle running costs³ vary for different vehicle categories.

When loan repayments are included, actual running costs become substantially higher than the range of estimated costs.

Vehicle category	Example vehicle brand	Cost without loan repayments	Cost with loan repayments
Small car	Hyundai i30	\$2,830	\$9,578
Medium sized SUV	Toyota RAV4	\$3,329	\$12,817
Large sized SUV	Mazda CX-9 Sport	\$4,822	\$16,566

¹ 335 from the Perth and Peel region, 126 from regional WA and 8 outside of Western Australia. Age, gender and location sampling quotas were applied, and data has been post-weighted to be representative of RAC's membership (which is broadly consistent with the WA population profile) - for a sample of 469 the margin of error for a 50% result is +/- 4.5 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

² For the purpose of the survey, respondents were provided with examples of running costs such as fuel, registration, insurance, loan repayments and servicing.

³ RAC's 2020 Vehicle Operating Costs Survey.



For the better

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How we pay to use roads

More than half (53%) feel that they know a moderate amount or more, about how they currently pay to use roads in WA.



14% say they know 'a lot' or 'a great deal'.

13% say they know 'nothing at all'.

Members also have a good understanding of how much fuel excise tax they pay when purchasing petrol.

38c/L the average estimate of how much fuel excise tax they pay. **42c/L** the actual fuel excise tax paid at the pump. » 42c/L was also the average estimate by respondents 45 years and older.

62% believe⁴ that the way we currently pay to use roads in WA is fair and equitable⁵. However, they believe that the way we pay to use roads should be changed to...

Help ease congestion and improve journey times	82%
Help pay for new or improved road and transport infrastructure	75%
Encourage the uptake of safer vehicles ⁶	74%
Encourage the uptake of low and zero emissions vehicles ⁷	67%
Make it more affordable for those who live in regional areas	66%
Reflect your driving habits (e.g. how often, when and where you drive)	61%

Public transport affordability

Perth members were asked their thoughts on public transport affordability.

When it comes to public transport affordability:



38% agreed vs **39%** disagreed

that the annual cost of commuting to work is cheaper by taking public transport instead of driving. Regular peak hour drivers⁸ also shared these views.



65% of regular peak hour drivers said they would use public transport more often if it was more affordable.

When it comes to public transport fares:



85% support a cap on weekly fares. » 29% of regular peak hour drivers identified this as the highest impact option⁹ to make them use it more often.



86% support cheaper off-peak fares (including weekends). » 26% identified this as the highest impact option to make them use it more often.



\$30 is the maximum amount members think they should have to pay per week. » 94% think the cap should be \$50 / week or less. » Only 1% said it should be free¹⁰.



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⁴ Respondents who 'agreed' and 'strongly agreed'.

⁵ Before answering, respondents were told that Western Australians pay to use the road network through various charges collected by the WA State and Australian governments such as stamp duty, fuel taxes, vehicle registration fees, licensing fees and taxes on imported vehicles.

⁶ Only 8% 'disagreed' (3% 'strongly disagreeing').

⁷ Only 11% 'disagreed' (4% 'strongly disagreeing').

⁸ Members who drive in peak hour five or more days a week.

⁹ Five options were presented, including 'none of the above' (33%). A cap on weekly fares was the highest rated initiative.

¹⁰ \$0 identified as the maximum amount they think they should pay in a week.