

RAC Member Priorities Tracker

Commuting and congestion

In October 2022, 303 of our members¹ took part in a survey telling us about their daily commute, what activities they would do if their commute was shorter and their views on traffic congestion and how it could be managed more effectively.

Our commute

Satisfaction

Members said they were more satisfied with their daily commute compared to 2021.

67% are satisfied² with their daily commute, up from **60%** in 2021 but slightly lower than the **73%** reported in 2020.

- » **56%** of metro-based peak hour drivers³ are satisfied with their commute, compared to **44%** in 2021 and **60%** in 2020.
- » **72%** of regional members are satisfied with their commute

47% took action in the last year⁴ to improve their daily commute, with the top responses being:

- » **17%** Work from home
- » **11%** Change commute time
- » **7%** Catch public transport more
- » **7%** Change jobs

Commuting time

95% of members estimated their daily (one-way) commute to be under one hour.

29mins was the average estimated commuting time.

- » This is **2 minutes** more than 2021.
- » **25 minutes** for regional members, compared to **16 minutes** in 2021 and **25 minutes** in 2020.
- » **33 minutes** for peak hour drivers in Perth⁵

11mins was the average acceptable⁶ increase in commuting time.

- » **10 minutes** for regional members
- » **12 minutes** for regular peak hour drivers in Perth³

35mins is the average maximum commute time regional members would be willing to travel.

45mins is the average maximum commute time regular peak hour drivers in Perth⁷ would be willing to travel.

40mins is the average time regular perth public transport users commute for.



Regular Perth public transport users would accept up to a **1.5 minute**⁸ increase.



Members who take the train to work commute for **47 minutes**, compared to **26.5 minutes** for bus users⁹.

Top three responses¹⁰ for how members would use additional time gained from a shorter commute were:

67% Exercise (individual) (up from **60%** in 2021).



64% Spend time with family and friends (up from **57%** in 2021).



59% Jobs around the home (up from **57%** in 2021).



¹ 246 from the Perth and Peel region, 57 from regional WA. 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) - the margin of error at total sample level is 5.6% at the 95% confidence level.

² Results are based on respondents who said they were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied'.

³ Drive in peak hour five or more days a week and from the Perth and Peel area.

⁴ In 2021, the top two responses were: work from home (16%) and change commute time (8%).

⁵ Members from the Perth and Peel area who drive in peak hour five or more days a week.

⁶ Members were asked 'what would be the maximum time (minutes) you would be willing to travel to your destination (thinking about a one-way trip)'

⁷ For all Perth members, the max time was 40 minutes. In 2021 - when asked how long they'd be prepared to commute for, regional members said 29 minutes and Perth peak hour drivers said 47 minutes.

⁸ Members from the Perth and Peel area who take public transport at least 5 days a week.

⁹ Members who responded 'train' or 'bus' to the question: 'Which mode(s) of transport do you currently use to travel to work/ study?'

¹⁰ Prompted responses were offered and members could select their top response.



For the better

What we think about congestion

Congestion is an issue for our Perth and regional members.

Regional members

At least once a week:

32% experience congestion on regional roads/highways.
» **10%** say this is the case 5 or more days a week.

39% experience congestion in their local town/area.



Perth members

In the past 12 months, members think congestion on Perth roads has¹¹:

↑ Increased
64%
vs 75% in 2021 and 47% in 2020

Stayed the same
28%
vs 14% in 2021 and 28% in 2020

↓ Decreased
3%
vs 2% in 2021 and 11% in 2020

Members think the main causes¹² of traffic congestion on Perth roads relate to:

19% Road works



18% Population growth



16% Driver skills / behaviour



67% agree¹³ they often see drivers frustrated/road rage incidents caused by traffic congestion.



53% of members agree¹⁴ sitting in congestion causes them a lot of stress/negatively impacts their wellbeing.



Government action on Perth roads¹⁵

70% agree¹⁶ that traffic congestion requires immediate attention by government.



Perth members believe the following initiatives would be most effective in easing traffic congestion on Perth roads¹⁷.

Fix 'pinch points' such as at busy intersections **65%**

General road upgrades and improvements **57%**

Improve public transport including connections to major activity centres **54%**

Better use of technology solutions to manage traffic flows **51%**

Support more people to work from home **47%**

Improve access to jobs closer to where people live **45%**

Introduce more priority for high frequency bus services **37%**

¹¹ A further 5% said they don't know/can't say.

¹² Prompted responses were offered and members could select multiple responses.

¹³ Based on members who said they 'agree' or 'strongly agree'.

¹⁴ Based on members who said they 'agree' or 'strongly agree'.

¹⁵ Metropolitan members only.

¹⁶ Based on members who said they 'agree' or 'strongly agree'.

¹⁷ Members who answered 'a lot' or 'a great deal'.



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