

# RAC Member Priorities Tracker

## Sustainability

In November 2022, 558 of our members<sup>1</sup> took part in a survey telling us about their views on a range of topics relating to the environment, vehicle emissions, and electric and hybrid vehicles.

### Climate change

**87%**



think<sup>2</sup> the world's climate is changing.

» Of those **73%** believe<sup>3</sup> climate change is caused by human activity<sup>4</sup>.

### Air quality

**78%**



rated the air quality in their area as being 'extremely good' or 'moderately good'.

However, air quality was rated

**8.3 out of 10**



as an issue that needs to be addressed in WA.

When asked if they had made any changes to their travel behaviours over the last 12 months<sup>5</sup>:

**17%**

have changed their travel for climate change/air quality reasons.

**30%**

have changed due to 'other' reasons (e.g. working from home or choosing to walk, cycle or catch public transport more).

**53%**

have not made any changes.

### Vehicle emissions

**96%**



believe vehicle emissions negatively impact on climate change and human health.

» **60%** say 'a great deal' or 'a lot'.  
» **2%** say 'not at all'.

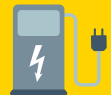
**93%**



think they have a personal responsibility to help reduce vehicle emissions.

» **47%** say 'a great deal' and 'a lot'.  
» **5%** say 'not at all'.

**67%**



believe the government should be doing more to reduce vehicle emissions<sup>6</sup>.

» Only **30%** have confidence in the government to address vehicle emissions.

<sup>1</sup> 454 from the Perth and Peel region and 104 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 +/- 4.15% at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>2</sup> Members who answered yes when asked if they think the world's climate is changing.

<sup>3</sup> 45% of members say 'a great deal' and 28% say 'a lot'.

<sup>4</sup> Down from 78% in 2021 and 82% in 2020.

<sup>5</sup> In 2021, 19% had made changes due to climate change/air quality reasons; 36% had made changes for 'other' reasons; and 45% had not made any changes.

<sup>6</sup> Down from 78% in 2021.




**For the better**

## Electric and hybrid vehicles


**50%** would likely consider an electric or hybrid vehicle for their next vehicle purchase<sup>7</sup>.

» **38%** would consider a petrol or diesel vehicle<sup>8</sup>.  
» **13%** don't know what vehicle they will buy next<sup>9</sup>.



**57%** estimate their own personal vehicle will be electric within the next 10 years<sup>10</sup>.

» **17%** say they're unlikely to ever own an electric vehicle<sup>11</sup>.



The main barriers to people buying an electric or hybrid vehicle<sup>12</sup>:

- 67%** say 'the cost is too high'<sup>13</sup>  
» For those who said the cost is too high, on average they would be willing to spend **\$5,585** more than an internal combustion engine vehicle for an electric vehicle.
- 13%** say 'access to charging infrastructure'<sup>14</sup>
- 3%** are worried about 'range anxiety (running low on charge)'
- 3%** 'do not know enough about them'<sup>15</sup>
- 3%** individually cite 'other' barriers such as towing capacity; rural distances; and the need for four-wheel drive capacity
- 5%** say there are no barriers

When asked how they feel about electric vehicles in general, compared to 12 months ago:

- 44%** feel more positive<sup>16</sup>
- 42%** have not changed their opinion
- 8%** feel more negative<sup>17</sup>
- 6%** do not have an opinion on electric vehicles

## Government action


Members said the top 3 actions government should take to reduce vehicle emissions are to<sup>18</sup>:



- 1** Provide incentives for purchasing low emissions vehicles<sup>19</sup> (48%)
- 2** Regulate emissions through national standards for new vehicles (21%)
- 3** Transition the public transport fleet to low emissions vehicles (9%)

**43%** of members in principle support<sup>20</sup> a future government ban on the sale of new internal combustion vehicles.

» **75%** of those say it should begin in 2030 or before.



<sup>7</sup> 31% say they would consider an 'electric' vehicle and 19% say they would consider a 'hybrid' vehicle.

<sup>8</sup> 25% say they would consider a 'petrol' vehicle and 13% say they would consider a 'diesel' vehicle.

<sup>9</sup> Members who say 'Don't know/not applicable'.

<sup>10</sup> 3% say their vehicle is already electric. In 2021, 65% estimated their own personal vehicle would be electric within the next 10 years; 1% said it was already electric.

<sup>11</sup> Up from 11% in 2021. Commonly cited reasons were that electric vehicles weren't suitable for members' lifestyle or life stage.

<sup>12</sup> Only asked to members who did not indicate that they were likely to consider an electric vehicle and were not likely to consider a hybrid vehicle for their next vehicle purchase.

<sup>13</sup> Down from 68% in 2021 and up from 57% in 2020.

<sup>14</sup> Up from 9% in 2021.

<sup>15</sup> Down from 5% in 2021 and 14% in 2020.

<sup>16</sup> 17% are 'much more positive' and 27% are 'more positive'.

<sup>17</sup> 4% are 'much more negative' and 4% are 'more negative'.

<sup>18</sup> Based on members who selected the action in their top three actions government should take to reduce vehicle emissions.

<sup>19</sup> Providing incentives for purchasing low emissions vehicles also came out on top as the most effective way to reduce vehicle emissions (35%), compared to the next most effective way, which was investing in electric vehicle charging infrastructure (12%).

<sup>20</sup> 15% 'strongly support' and 28% 'somewhat support', in principle, a future government ban on the sale of new internal combustion engine vehicles. 23% 'strongly oppose' and 16% 'somewhat oppose' one, and 18% say they 'have no feelings either way'.



For further information please contact [advocacy@rac.com.au](mailto:advocacy@rac.com.au)