RAC Member Priorities Tracker
Public transport

In February 2020, 523 of our members¹ took part in a survey telling us about their usage and experiences of public transport, as well as things that would encourage them to catch it more frequently.

How often we use public transport²
Those from Perth typically catch it:

- 5+ days a week: 6%
- A few days a week: 4%
- Once a week: 8%
- Once a fortnight: 8%
- Once a month: 15%

Less often: 33%
Never: 27%

2% of regional members catch it once a week or more
68% never do

Why we don’t use it more

Say they ‘need their car’
43% (48% of Perth respondents)

This means 5 in 10 choose not to for reasons such as availability (24%), proximity (7%), preferring other modes (5%), as well as cost, safety, travel time, comfort or reliability.

How much we spend a week on fares

84% spend on average less than $20
12% spend $60+
22% spend $50+
33% spend $40+

Are we using it more or less than we did?

27% of those who use public transport, do so less than 12 months ago
11% now use it more often

Changes in personal situation, work location or a new job are the most common reasons for change in usage.

¹Based on the 523 respondents to the February RAC Member Priorities Tracker survey only. This information is asked monthly so may change over time.
²Based on the 523 respondents to the WA population profile - the margin of error at total sample level is +/-4% at the 95% confidence level.
³666 from the Perth and Peel region and 157 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% at the 95% confidence level.
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What we think about public transport
Our feelings about it are closely linked with how often we use it.

- Regular public transport users
- Infrequent public transport users

Feel safe at stations/stops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Regular users</th>
<th>Infrequent users</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feel safe</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>41%</td>
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</table>

Feel safe onboard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Regular users</th>
<th>Infrequent users</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feel safe</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>52%</td>
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</table>

Agree it’s affordable

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Regular users</th>
<th>Infrequent users</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>48%</td>
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Agree buses are:

- easy to use/understand

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Regular users</th>
<th>Infrequent users</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>54%</td>
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Reliable

<table>
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<th>Regular users</th>
<th>Infrequent users</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>50%</td>
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What would make us use it more?
The top three changes to encourage greater use are:

1. Better connection of public transport to activity centres outside of the CBD (55% likely or very likely to use public transport more often).
2. Improved access to train stations e.g. more bus feeder services, better walking and cycling infrastructure (54%).
3. Improved security measures at public transport stations and on services (52%).

The most preferred change varies for different users:

- Infrequent public transport users top priority is improved security measures at stations/on services.
- Regular public transport users top priority is construction of a light rail network serving inner Perth suburbs and activity centres.
- Regional members’ top priority is better public transport services between regional towns.

Contact us: advocacy@rac.com.au

1 Those who use public transport once a week or more – 70 respondents to the February tracker survey.
2 Those who use public transport less than once a week – 463 respondents to the February tracker survey.
3 Based on respondents who said this was the one change they’d most like to see introduced, out of a list of potential changes they’d be asked the degree to which they’d be likely to use public transport more often if these were introduced.