

# RAC Member Priorities Tracker

## Working from home

In May 2020, 584 of our members<sup>1</sup> took part in a survey telling us about their experiences during COVID-19 restrictions. Many have been working from home and there is an appetite to continue to do so in the future. What could this mean for peak period traffic?

### Accessing work<sup>2</sup>

In a typical week in April 2020, during COVID-19 restrictions:



**31% worked from home**

Compared to just **5%** in January

**15%** of regional and **35%** of Perth members

The most significant changes in mode of travel to work<sup>3</sup> were:



**60%** drove a car, down from **89%** in January



**1%** caught public transport, down from **18%** in January

### Working from home in the future

Most members from Perth currently working from home would like to continue to on some basis once restrictions are lifted<sup>4</sup>:

**19%** five days a week

**3%** four days a week

**17%** three days a week

**18%** twice a week

**19%** once a week

**7%** once a fortnight

**13%** never

**2.2**



is the average number days a week those currently working from home would like to continue to do so.

### What impact could this have on traffic?

If residents of Greater Perth were enabled to work from home their preferred amount, this could be equivalent to approximately **120,000 people** working from home on an average weekday, or:



**11%**

fewer trips to work by car<sup>5</sup>



**67,000**

fewer cars on the road for journey to work trips

#### Method

- » Based on the survey, an average of 15.2% of those employed in Perth want to work from home on a typical weekday if they could (35% have been WFH x average number of preferred days at 2.17 / 5 working days in a week).
- » The baseline mode shares for journey to work trips were sourced from the 2016 ABS Census for Greater Perth. To account for the increased percentage of those preferring to work from home (15.2%), these mode shares were scaled down proportionately<sup>6</sup>.
- » The 'preferred mode shares' were then multiplied by the total number of people either travelling to work or working from home from the 2016 Census (820,145) to calculate the 'preferred' number of trips by each mode.
- » The difference between the calculated 'preferred' trip numbers and the Census trip numbers for the 'car driver' mode was calculated to estimate the change in car trips and traffic volumes.

<sup>1</sup> 444 from the Perth and Peel region and 140 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.

<sup>2</sup> Respondents could nominate more than one mode of travel. For instance, some members park and ride at train stations to get to work/study. Not all travel modes used by members have been included in this graphic. Figures only reflect responses from those who reported they were employed at the time of the surveys.

<sup>3</sup> Members were asked how they accessed work, including working from home as an option.

<sup>4</sup> Other responses nominated by 3% of members have not been included in this graphic.

<sup>5</sup> Compared with the 2016 ABS Census.

<sup>6</sup> No adjustment was made to account for potential reduction in public transport patronage due to COVID-19. This analysis is intended to reflect travel conditions after restrictions and health concerns related to COVID-19 are eased.



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