

Motoring Matters

For Every Australian

Coalition responses to AAA's motoring questions

In the lead up to the 2007 Federal Election, the Australian Automobile Association - on behalf of Australia's motoring clubs, their 6.5 million members, their families and all road users - put ten questions to the political parties on important road safety and road infrastructure issues.

1. What is your party's assessment of the state of Australia's road network?

The Coalition Government is committed to a massive upgrade to our national road network to guarantee Australia's future prosperity. We are investing in the roads and railways on the national network, including completing missing links such as the F3 to M7/M2.

2. What is your party's policy on Commonwealth funding of road infrastructure?

We introduced the AusLink program to ensure fairer allocation and accountability for identification and funding of road infrastructure projects around Australia. We are also working to reduce the number of trucks needed on our roads by spending a record \$2.4 billion on rail while also moving to more productive, safer and greener trucks.

3. How does your party intend to fund and accelerate major road infrastructure projects?

We are spending more than \$38 billion on Australia's roads and railways over 10 years through AusLink, a plan to deliver the transport infrastructure Australia deserves. Our \$38 billion Auslink investment is the largest road and rail investment in our nation's history.

4. Is your party focussed on the state of regional roads around Australia?

By June next year we will have provided almost \$2.5 billion to councils for vital local road upgrades and already over 25,000 projects have been completed under our Roads to Recovery Program. If re-elected, we have committed to increase funding to \$350 million per year. Some \$470 million has been committed to projects proposed by local councils that will improve our regional transport connections under the Strategic Regional program. Many councils are using these funds to fix State Highways neglected by Labor.

5. What will your party do to keep motoring affordable for Australians, in particular to ensure that fuel prices are competitive and in line with world/regional benchmark prices?

The Government is also delivering cheaper fuel through a series of practical steps including further developing Australia's huge energy resources. \$1.576 billion will be spent over the next eight years, including by supporting greener alternatives like E10 and supporting LPG through the \$1000 per vehicle grant. The powers we have given the ACCC ensure it is constantly monitoring fuel prices and can prosecute offenders for huge fines where there is evidence of price fixing or collusion.

6. What is your party's view on the use of alternative fuels in motor vehicles - in particular ethanol?

No response received.

7. Does your party have a view and any policy on traffic congestion and its cost to the national and regional economies?

We acknowledge the growing concerns of motorists with urban congestion and associated greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles, and are working to address congestion on the national network through the COAG urban congestion review.

8. What is your party's policy on reducing Greenhouse gas emissions, particularly emissions from private vehicles?

No response received.

9. What is your party doing to ensure motor vehicles are safer?

The Coalition is working with vehicle manufacturers to encourage them to fit the latest generation of safety features, such as electronic stability control and curtain airbags.

10. What is your party's policy on driver education and training?

Safer drivers are also vital to reducing our road toll and we are working on a major Novice Driver Trial involving 28,000 young drivers in NSW and Victoria. We will also work with AAA and Australia's motoring organisations to identify further steps that can be taken on this vital issue.