



MOTORING AND MOBILITY REPORT 2017



Australian
Automobile
Association

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ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION

The Australian Automobile Association is the peak organisation representing Australia's motoring clubs and their almost eight million members. The AAA is an apolitical organisation which advances the interests of its constituent motoring clubs as well as all road users across Australia to ensure transport is safe, sustainable, and affordable, and that Australia's transport infrastructure delivers for the community and the economy.

About the Research

The data included within this publication was gathered in 2017 and derived from a survey of 2,000 Australian adult voting residents, chosen randomly from across the nation, with a margin of error of +/-2.2% at the 95% confidence interval. The survey included minimum quotas and data weighting on area, age and sex to ensure accurate representation.

About this publication

The AAA's annual Motoring and Mobility Report is designed as a reference for Australian policy makers, to help them better understand public perceptions and provide added context around key issues facing the nation and individual Australian households in relation to land transport and related policy.

Foreword

Safety and affordability must be core to government transport policy development

The AAA's 2017 Motoring and Mobility Report shows road safety and transport affordability dominate the concerns of Australian road users.

Ninety-three per cent of those surveyed rated road safety as an important concern and 30 percent selected it as their top concern.

With the annual national road toll at around 1,200 after several decades of steady decline - and with about 42,000 seriously injured each year, the AAA shares these concerns. After advocating strongly on this issue, the AAA welcomes the announcement of a national inquiry into the National Road Safety Strategy (NRSS) by the Australian Government. The AAA sees this as important step towards developing the evidence-based road safety policies of the Federal Government.

The next top concern for motorists is the cost of fuel, with 15 per cent nominating it as their top concern and 88 percent nominating it as an important concern. The more encapsulating category of 'the cost of cars and motoring including fuel' was also nominated by 10 per cent as their top concern.

These concerns are borne out in the AAA's Transport Affordability Index which shows the average Australian family spends 13.6 per cent of its earnings on land transport. The annual amount spent ranges from \$22,237.50 in Sydney to \$14,852.31 in Hobart.

The financial pressure being faced by Australian families must be central to all Government policy making, in particular to proposals to reduce greenhouse and noxious emissions from Australia's vehicle fleet.

Our research shows that while 75 per cent of Australians are concerned about the environmental impact of motoring, it is the top issue for just 4 per cent.

The tension between concern for the environment and the ability to bear extra costs to protect it is nowhere more apparent than in the willingness of Australians to pay more for cleaner fuels and cars.

A growing majority of Australians appear unwilling to pay anything extra for cleaner fuels. And support for tougher emissions standards for vehicles sits at just 42 per cent once those surveyed understand that such standards could lead to higher fuel and vehicle costs.

Our findings suggest Australians are yet to be convinced the emissions and fuel standards currently being considered by the Government represent good value for money in protecting our environment.

The 2017 Motoring and Mobility Report should serve as a reminder to all Governments of the cost pressures faced by Australian families and the need for transport related policy to be developed with a view to reducing rather than increasing costs to families.



Michael Bradley

Chief Executive
Australian Automobile Association

A Snapshot

Road users remain highly concerned about road safety with 93 per cent of Australians surveyed rating it as an important concern and 30 percent selecting it as their top concern.

After safety, the top three priorities for road users are:

- The price of fuel**
 nominated as an important concern by 88 per cent of Australians surveyed and the top concern for 15 per cent.
- Road congestion**
 nominated as an important concern by 87 per cent of Australians surveyed and the top concern for 14 per cent.
- The state of transport infrastructure and road conditions**
 nominated as an important concern by 92 per cent of Australians surveyed and the top concern for 11 per cent.

Key concerns of Australian Road Users

The safety of you and others when traveling on roads



The State of transport infrastructure and road conditions



The funding given to roads and public transport by governments



The price of fuel



Road congestion



The cost of cars and motoring, including fuel



Public transport



The amount of money coming from fuel excise (tax) that is spent on transport



The environmental impact of motoring



The collection of use of private data in cars



- Total
- Top Priority

Australian Road Users

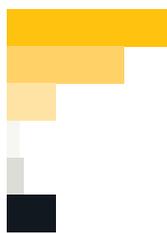
Transport usage

In 2017, 40 per cent of road users reported using a car daily. This is a reduction from 51 per cent in 2015 and consistent with a downward trend beginning in 2003. Those who report using their cars most days of the week stayed relatively steady at 29 per cent.

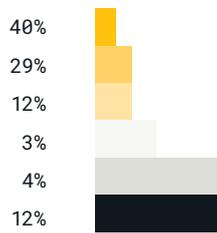
The next most common form of daily transport is Walking (20 per cent) being a Passenger in a Car (10 per cent) then Bus (5 per cent) Train (5 per cent) and Bicycle (3 per cent).

Transport modes used by Australians

Drive a car



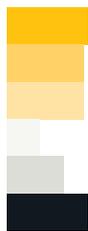
Trains



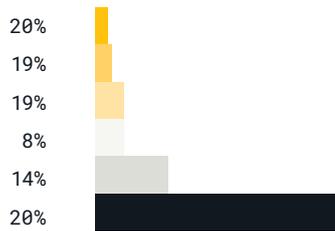
Ride-sharing



Walk / jog



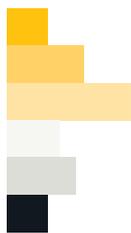
Bicycle



Ferries



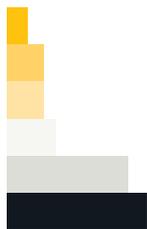
Passenger in a car



Taxis



Buses



Motorbike / scooter



- Every day
- Most days
- > Once a week
- > Once a month
- Less Often
- Never

Ride Sharing

Ride sharing remains in the minority amongst Australian road users and where used seems to replace public transport and taxi services more so than driving.

Ride sharing

When asked what option they would have used instead of taking their most recent ride-sharing trip, those surveyed responded:

Caught public transport	34%
Used a Taxi	28%
Driven my car	20%
Walked or cycled	14%
Would not have taken trip	3%
Don't know	1%



■ Road User %

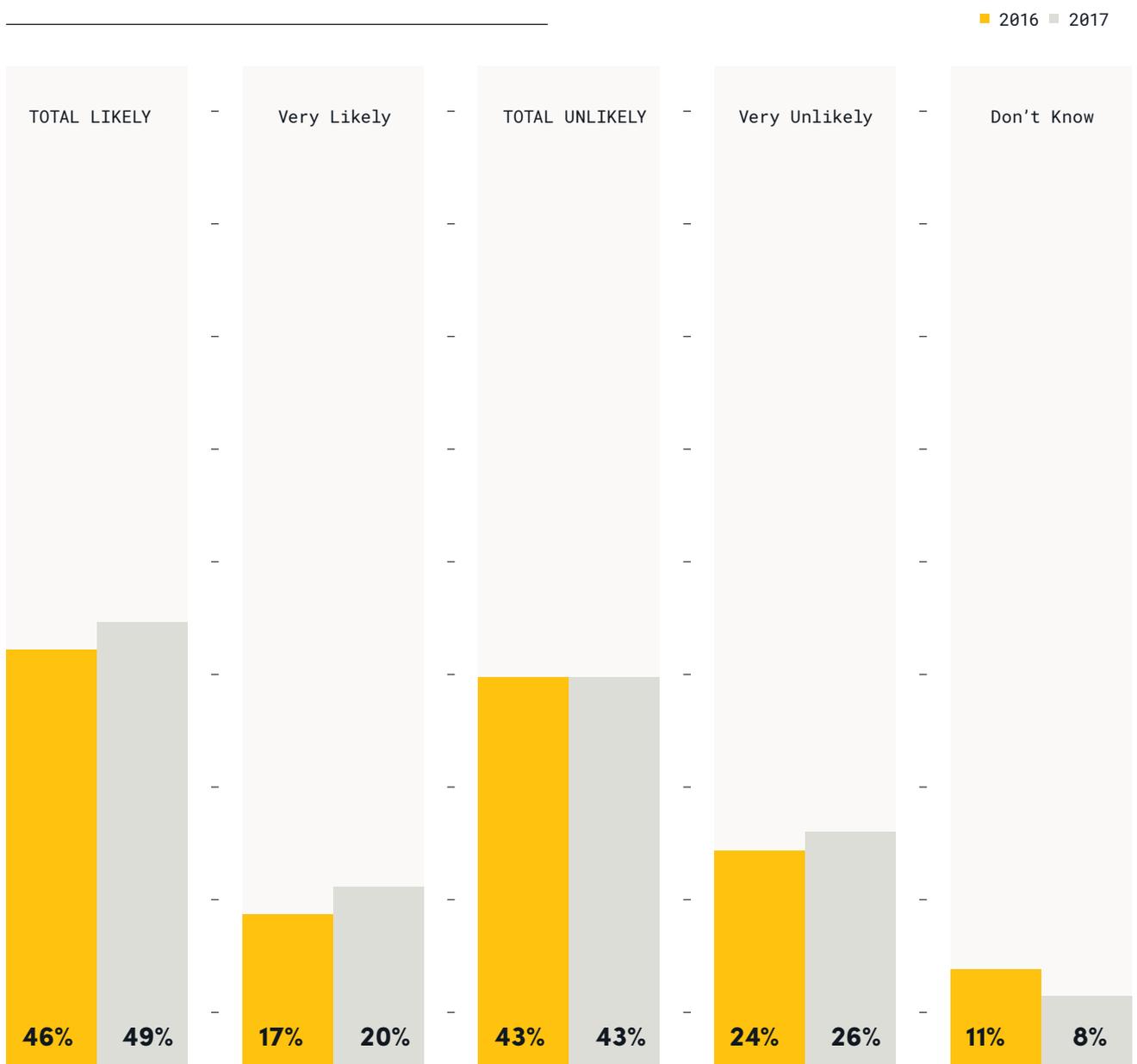
Australian Road Users

The cars Australians buy and drive

ABS data shows the average age of the Australian vehicle fleet is 10.1 years¹. This is quite old by global standards and has implications for safety, running and maintenance costs, and environmental performance.

Almost half of those surveyed for the AAA plan to buy a new vehicle in the next couple of years.

Likelihood of purchasing a new vehicle in the next two years





AUSTRALIAN ROAD USERS – THE ISSUES

Safety

Road users remain highly concerned about road safety with 93 per cent of Australians surveyed rating it as an important concern and 30 percent selecting it as their top concern.

Main causes of road crashes

Being Distracted by mobile phones	79%
Speeding drivers	68%
Driving whilst on drugs	67%
Drink Driving	67%
Road rage and aggression	56%
Driver education standards	38%
The condition and maintenance of our roads	33%
Being distracted by GPS systems	29%
Road congestion	26%
Poorly maintained vehicles	23%
Don't know	4%

Australian Road Users

The National Road Safety Strategy (NRSS), signed by all Australian governments in 2010, has the target of reducing road deaths and injuries by at least 30 per cent by 2020. Through the quarterly **Benchmarking the Performance of the National Road Safety Strategy Report** the AAA has tracked the progress of the NRSS towards its target. The annual road toll for December 2016 was the worst since March 2013, and the same as May 2011 and our findings are that with three years remaining, there appears little chance the strategy will achieve its goals.

AAA research shows there is a wide range of views amongst those surveyed as to why this might be the case. These views are echoed in comments by law enforcement agencies, government at all levels and in media and stakeholder commentary. In early May 2017, the Australian Government announced the commissioning of research into the impact of drug use and mobile devices on driver and pedestrian behaviour. The Government subsequently announced a national inquiry into the NRSS as part of the 2017-18 Budget.

The AAA welcomes the review of the NRSS as an important step towards understanding why it is not proving effective. The learnings from this review will help develop effective, evidence-based road safety policies for the next decade.

Action Australians want taken on safety

Australians are concerned about road safety. They see this as primarily an issue of personal responsibility.

When asked about tackling safety:

- 79 per cent agreed they would “buy a safer car if I could afford it” and
- 75 per cent agreed Government taxes on new, safer cars should be removed or reduced.

There is an opportunity for the Australian Government to help make newer, safer vehicles more accessible to more Australians sooner by abolishing restrictions and importation taxes on vehicles.

With the closure of the last of Australia’s vehicle manufacturing plants in 2017 these importation restrictions are no longer required and will force Australians to pay an extra \$4.7 billion for new vehicles over the next four years in the form of tariffs and taxes.

Transport Affordability

The 'price of fuel' is nominated as an important concern by 88 per cent of Australians surveyed and is the top concern for 15 per cent. A further 10 percent nominate 'the cost of cars and motoring, including fuel' as their top concern.

The AAA's Quarterly Transport Affordability Index shows the average Australian household spends around 13.6 per cent of income on land transport. This equates to \$17,464. By comparison the ABS Household Expenditure Survey, 2009-10 finds household expenses relating to electricity and gas consume one to three per cent of household budgets.

Emissions regulations and willingness to pay

The Australian Government is actively considering a number of proposals to reduce CO2 and noxious emissions from Australia's light vehicle fleet.

These include:

- The introduction of new fuel standards and the removal of regular unleaded fuel (91 RON) from the marketplace
- The imposition of stricter emissions standards, known as Euro 6, for new vehicles sold in Australia and
- The introduction of a CO2 standard for vehicles.

The AAA supports the Government's objectives of a more efficient vehicle fleet and improved air quality, however the AAA's desire for emissions policy to

deliver environmental improvements at least cost to motorists and the economy appears to strongly align with the views of motorists.

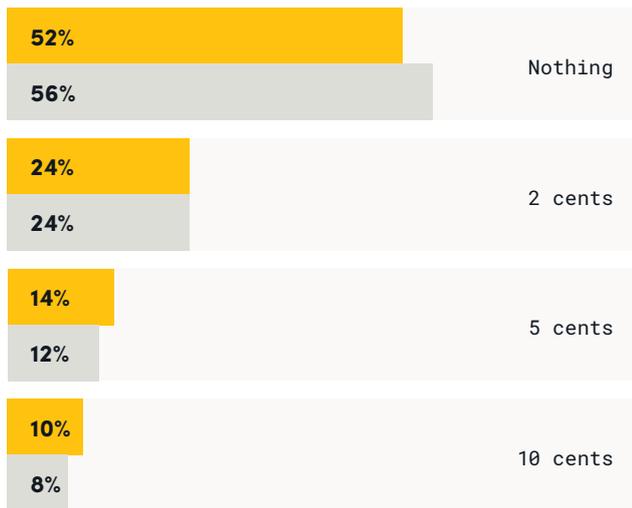
The AAA continues to advocate for emissions reduction policies that avoid unnecessary price shocks for Australian households and our research shows Australians remain reluctant to pay more for fuel or vehicles in order to meet the Government's emissions commitments.

Support for a CO2 standard

- 57 per cent support a CO2 standard initially
- 46 per cent support a CO2 standard once advised it may lead to higher vehicle costs
- Support climbs again to 64 per cent when those surveyed are advised the increased cost of their vehicle may be offset by lower fuel use
- Support drops to just 42 per cent when those surveyed are advised fuel costs may rise – ie once they have the fullest picture of the potential costs.

Australian Road Users

Willingness to pay for 'cleaner fuels'

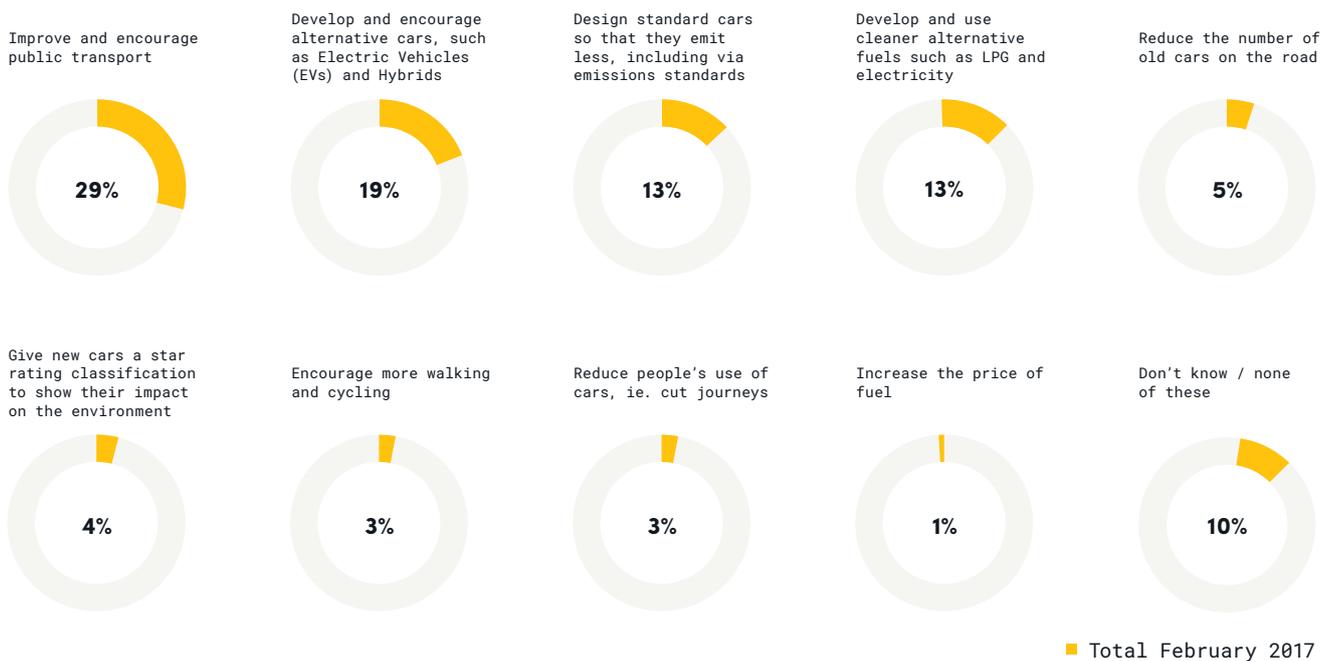


More than half of those surveyed wish to pay nothing extra for 'cleaner fuels' and this position has hardened since 2016, with those prepared to pay nothing extra rising from 52 per cent to 56 per cent.

■ Total 2016
■ Total 2017

Actions Australians see as realistic to reduce the environmental impact of motoring

Better public transport is seen as the most viable solution to reducing the impact of motoring.



■ Total February 2017

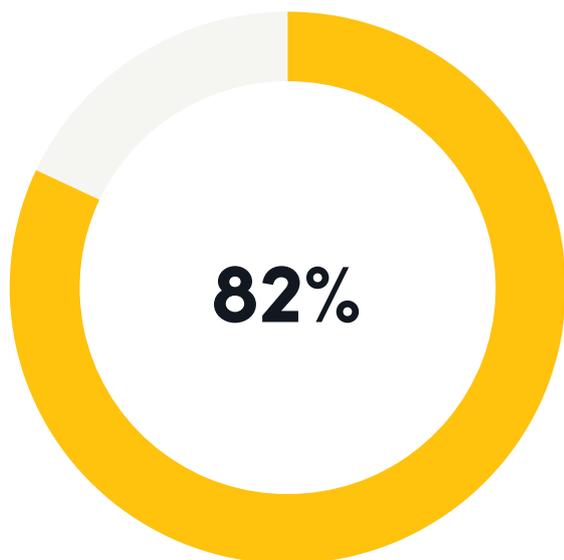
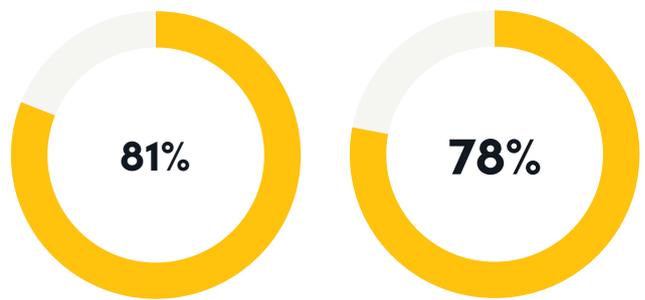
Vehicle Data Ownership

Many of today's cars are collecting information as they drive. Connected cars use telematics technology to transmit data, to communicate where the car has been, how fast it travels, the performance of its engine and whether it needs maintenance. In some cases, vehicles are even relaying personal data of its occupants. This can include the contacts contained in mobile phones used in the vehicle.

Australians need to understand the many benefits of this technology, but also the potential costs and disadvantages. Consumers expect to have a choice, when it comes to servicing and maintaining their vehicle. However, without proper regulatory controls there is a real risk independent repairers will be locked out of the market.

AAA research shows eighty-two per cent of those surveyed reported being unaware that their car may include computer systems which capture and in some cases, transmit car performance and other data to the manufacturer.

Eighty one per cent of Australians state that data in their car ought to be controlled by them and seventy-eight per cent agree it is important that the Government develop laws to deal with the ownership and control of data produced by vehicles.



¹<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/9309.0>



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