

MEDIA RELEASE

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Increased transport spending will save jobs and lives

The federal Budget's \$14 billion commitment to transport projects over the next four years is set to help protect Australian jobs and importantly, protect lives on the nation's roads.

The nation's peak motoring body, the Australian Automobile Association (AAA), strongly endorsed the announced \$2 billion road safety investment – provided to state governments on a “use it or lose it” basis – which will drive urgently needed investment in small scale road safety projects, particularly in regional areas.

AAA Managing Director Michael Bradley said: “The federal government is to be congratulated on responding to Australia's road trauma figures in a way that will also drive regional economic stimulus and jobs growth.

“Such a significant investment is welcome, and so too are the competitive terms on which it is being provided.

“The AAA looks forward to examining the detail of these arrangements that should also ensure state governments are responsible for providing road trauma data and better accountability for this funding.”

Road trauma still sees 100 Australians hospitalised every day and it is a \$30 billion annual drag on the economy. In the last financial year alone, 1105 Australians died on the road.

The Budget confirmed that motorists would continue to pay their own way, with the average household expected to contribute \$1,188 in fuel excise alone in 2020-21.

The budget papers show that, 82 per cent of nett fuel excise will be invested in land transport infrastructure in 2020-21, rising to 98 per cent next year and 100 per cent by 2022/23.

The AAA represents more than 8.5 million Australians through its clubs, the NRMA, RACV, RACQ, RAA, RAC, RACT and AANT.

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The Australian Automobile Association is the nation's peak motoring body, representing Australia's state-based motoring clubs and their 8 million members. The AAA is an apolitical and technology-neutral advocate for federal transport policy that improves safety, affordability, and mobility.