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Brisbane drivers get better roads but slugged more to park

RACQ has welcomed the \$1.68 billion focus on busting congestion in today's Brisbane City Council (BCC) budget, with more than half of Council's spend going towards roads and transport.

However, the State's peak motoring body was disappointed in Council's double-digit increase to parking fees.

RACQ spokesperson Paul Turner said it was good to see Brisbane Metro funded and continued funding for upgrades to Wynnum Road, Telegraph Road and Green Camp Road in the budget.

"BCC's billion-dollar road spend is positive news for Brisbane motorists," Mr Turner said.

"This congestion busting investment should see extra capacity at key choke points around the city and there is \$90 million allocated to resurfacing that will improve road surfaces on around 500 streets.

"We applaud the focus on public transport with funding for a new CityCat, more buses and express 'SpeedyCat' services. With better quality public transport services we can encourage more commuters to catch the bus or ferry and hopefully ease road congestion.

"It's also good news for cyclists with \$43 million to be spent on bikeways around the city."

Mr Turner said an increase to on-street parking fees would hurt motorists.

"Parking metre fees will increase by at least 10 percent from 1 July. This is a big slug on motorists who already spend an average of \$200 a week on transport costs.

"It's been a number of years since the last time these fees went up, but it's still a large jump in one year.

"This means on-street parking up to three hours in the CBD will go from \$4.40/hour to \$4.90/hour or if you're in a city fringe area like Fortitude Valley or West End, from \$2.70/hour to \$3/hour."

Media inquiries: RACQ spokesperson Paul Turner 0408 850 270; Media Advisor Nelson Savanh 0427 949 358.

RACQ is Queensland's largest club and peak independent motoring organisation. We were formed in 1905 to represent the interests of the State's first motorists and today campaign for safer drivers, vehicles and roads on behalf of the 1.7 million members who own the Club. We offer those members a vast range of motoring, insurance, banking, entertainment and travel services and benefits, and each year respond to more than a million calls for roadside assistance.