

12 June 2018

## Roads budget boost but drivers will foot bill: RACQ

The State's peak motoring body has given today's Queensland Budget the thumbs up, with drivers set to benefit from an extra \$1 billion in funding for road and transport infrastructure.

RACQ has however criticised the Palaszczuk Government's slug on drivers' hip pockets, with motorists set to be taxed more than ever before for registration and licencing fees.

RACQ spokesperson Paul Turner said while the Club welcomed the \$21.7 billion in roads and transport infrastructure funding over four years, motorists would foot the bill.

"We welcome the investment on roads like the Bruce Highway and Pacific Motorway and regional roads like the Warrego Highway and Gregory Developmental Road," Mr Turner said.

"Active and public transport infrastructure also gets a boost with Cross River Rail funded to the tune of \$733 million this year.

"Commuters will benefit from the significant investment in park 'n ride facilities across the south east while the \$245.2 million investment in cycleways is good news. We will continue to advocate for better quality separated bike infrastructure along major roads.

"Integrated transport with roads, public transport and cycling all play a part in easing congestion and improving our lifestyles.

"The investment in regional road infrastructure with the completion of the Toowoomba bypass and funding for the Mackay ring road and Bruce Highway alternatives like the Gregory Developmental Road are also important."

Mr Turner said it was disappointing to see taxes and charges continue to increase well above inflation for motorists.

"We've seen rego and licence costs increase by 3.5 percent for yet another year – this unfair price hike is twice the inflation rate and brings the hike to almost 15 percent over four years," he said.

"This year we've also seen a two percent stamp duty increase for cars over \$100,000 introduced. You can't just keep using motorists as budget cash cows."

**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.