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River City locals slugged \$20k a year for transport

Brisbane residents have forked out on average \$19,745 a year to travel around the River City, which made it one of the most expensive places in the country to commute.

According to the Australian Automobile Association's (AAA) latest Transport Affordability Index, the cost to own and run a car or catch public transport increased by \$184 per annum in the June quarter, the second highest increase in Australia behind Sydney.

RACQ's Head of Public Policy Rebecca Michael said Brisbane was the most expensive city for transport when average income was measured.

"Residents are spending more than 16 percent of their incomes on getting around Brisbane. Registration, licensing, taxes and tolls are hitting the hip pocket hard –and it's unacceptable," Dr Michael said.

"If the State Government was serious about driving down the cost of living it would start by freezing rego costs for three years."

Dr Michael blamed rising fuel prices for a significant proportion of the hike, saying they accounted for an extra \$5.41 being added to the weekly household budget.

"These kinds of increases put added pressure on families, which is why we look forward to the start of the real time fuel price monitoring trial in December," she said.

"Price monitoring alone won't bring the cost of fuel down – but people power will. We're urging drivers to pay attention to advice regarding when to fill up, use fuel price apps or websites to find the cheapest fuel, and reward those retailers charging fair prices with your business.

"Competition between fuel stations is the best way to drive down prices and secure the cheapest deal for motorists."

AAA is the peak organisation for Australia's motoring clubs including RACQ.

Media inquiries: Head of Public Policy Rebecca Michael 0418 201 179; Media advisor Clare Hunter 0427 261 932.

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.