

12 June 2019

## Key roads miss out in Brisbane City Council budget

RACQ has criticised Brisbane City Council's (BCC) budget which failed to allocate funds to some of the most critical road projects.

BCC's road funding spend was down 15 percent on last year, and while \$64.9 million was committed to Kingsford Smith Drive, \$24.8 million to the Ellison Road roundabout upgrade, and \$24.6 million to Wynnum Road works, the rest of the City had shared the crumbs.

RACQ Head of Public Policy Rebecca Michael said the Club was disappointed so many critical congestion busting projects missed out on funding.

"This budget has seen a substantial proportion of funding directed towards a select few major projects at the expense of upgrades at congested intersections and corridors across the broader river city network," Dr Michael said.

"The drop in road funding is also cause for concern, with travel speeds across many of the majors getting slower and slower, particularly during peak periods.

"We'd have liked to have seen congested corridors such as Ipswich Road, Moggill Road, Enoggera/Kelvin Grove Road, Coronation Drive, Waterworks Road and Old Cleveland Road receive significant investment – they're choked daily by gridlock and it's only getting worse."

Dr Michael said there was further bad news with parking meter fees and council rates set to rise above the consumer price index rate, to two and 2.5 percent respectively.

"We thought after an 11 percent increase in meter fees last year that we'd be given some reprieve with a freeze this year – instead the average is up by two percent," she said.

Dr Michael welcomed an 11 percent rise in active and public transport investment, mainly due to the \$125 million in 2019-20 set to fund Brisbane Metro, and acknowledged BCC's support for better patronage through Green bridges and bikeways, free off-peak travel for seniors, and free 'CityGlider' funding.

"We know Metro will be a huge benefit to commuters, but it covers a small portion of the city so we need other incentives to encourage residents to swap the car for public transport."

**Media inquiries: RACQ Head of Public Policy Rebecca Michael 0418 201 179; Media Advisor Emma O'Mara 0427 949 358.**

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