

# RAC Member Priorities Tracker

## Sustainability

In October 2021, 406 of our members<sup>1</sup> took part in a survey telling us their views on a range of topics relating to the environment, vehicle emissions, and electric and hybrid vehicles.

### The environment

The top 5<sup>2</sup> environmental issues Western Australians think need addressing are:

**1\*** Water quality / conservation

**1\*** Waste management / recycling

**3** Extinction of native animals

**4** Climate change

**5** Use of non-renewable energy

\*Tie for top environmental issue.

### Climate change

**90%**



'think<sup>3</sup> the world's climate is changing'  
this is up 5% from last year.

**78%**



believe<sup>4</sup> climate change is caused by human activity.

### Vehicle emissions

**97%**



believe vehicle emissions negatively impact on climate change and human health.

- » **62%** say 'a great deal' or 'a lot'.
- » Less than **2%** say 'not at all'.

**96%**



think they have a personal responsibility to help reduce vehicle emissions.

- » **52%** say 'a great deal' and 'a lot'.
- » Less than **3%** say 'not at all'.

### Air quality

**Almost 1 in 4**

have concerns about their local air quality / air pollution.



When asked about changing travel behaviours<sup>5</sup>:  
**19%** have changed their travel for climate change and air quality reasons.

<sup>1</sup> 307 from the Perth and Peel region, 99 from regional WA. Age, gender and location sampling quotas were applied, and data has been post-weighted to be representative of RAC's membership (which is broadly consistent with the WA population profile) - the margin of error at total sample level is +/-5% at the 95% confidence level.

<sup>2</sup> This year Number 4 is the only change from last year's member tracker, Number 4 changed from Air quality in last year's survey to Climate change in this year's survey.

<sup>3</sup> Those who answered 'yes' to this question.

<sup>4</sup> Respondents who said, 'a great deal' and 'a lot', 16% said 'a moderate amount', 3% said 'a little', 1% said 'not at all' and 2% 'don't know'.


<sup>5</sup> 45% have not made any changes to their travel and 36% have made changes for other reasons.

## Electric and hybrid vehicles

**50%** would consider an electric or hybrid vehicle<sup>6</sup> for their next vehicle purchase, this up 6% from 2020.




**14%** 'don't know' what vehicle they will buy next.



**36%** would consider a 'petrol' or 'diesel' vehicle<sup>7</sup>.



**66%** estimate they'll own an electric vehicle within the next 10 years.



The main barriers to people buying an electric or hybrid vehicle:

**68%** say 'the cost is too high'<sup>8</sup>

**10%** say 'access to charging infrastructure'

**6%** are worried about 'range anxiety'

**5%** 'do not know enough about them'

**3%** are uncertain about 'running costs / maintenance'

**5%** individually cite 'other' barriers such as towing capacity; rural / regional distances and the need for four-wheel drive capacity.

<sup>6</sup> 29% said battery electric vehicle and 21% said hybrid electric vehicle.

<sup>7</sup> 21% would consider a petrol vehicle and 16% would consider a diesel vehicle.

<sup>8</sup> Up 11% from 2020.

<sup>9</sup> 22% are 'Much more positive' and 33% are 'More positive'

When asked how they feel about electric vehicles in general, compared to 12 months ago:

**55%** feel more positive<sup>9</sup>

**34%** have had no change in opinion

**8%** do not have an opinion on electric vehicles

**2%** have a more negative view

## Government action

Consistent with last year, the top 3 actions identified for government to take to reduce vehicle emissions are:



**1** Provide incentives for purchasing low emissions vehicles.

**2** Regulate emissions through national standards for new vehicles.

**3** Increase the number of low emissions vehicles in the government vehicle fleet.

**Only 27%**



have confidence in the government to address vehicle emissions (down 14% from 2020).

**78%**



believe the government should be doing more to reduce vehicle emissions (up 6% from 2020).



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