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### Tasmanians urged to shop around for fuel as report reveals least affordable transport costs in nation

Tasmanians have been urged to shop around when purchasing fuel as it is revealed the state has continued its unenviable record as having the least affordable transport in Australia.

According to the latest Australian Automobile Association (AAA) Affordability Index released today, Hobart recorded the highest transport costs as a percentage of income of any capital city in Australia.

On average, Hobartians spent 17.6 per cent of their income on transport – 2.2 per cent above the national capital city average of 15.4 per cent.

Launceston was the least affordable regional city in the report, with 18 per cent of income on average spent on transport – 3.8 per cent above the regional average of 14.2 per cent.

The national average was 14.9 per cent.

RACT Chief Advocacy Officer Garry Bailey said shopping around for the cheapest fuel in their area was one way for Tasmanians to reduce spending on transport, with RACT members collectively saving \$1.14 million since July by taking advantage of RACT's United Petroleum discount.

"Tasmania's geography, isolation and under-established public transport networks mean that for many, driving a car is the most viable way to get from A to B," Mr Bailey said.

"With volatile fuel costs due to a mix of external factors such as the war in Ukraine and rising inflation, this means Tasmanians are spending more than their fair share on transport.

"In order to save money on transport, we encourage Tasmanians to shop around when it comes to purchasing fuel, as the difference between stations within a short drive can be significant.

"An easy way they can do this is by downloading the RACT's free Fuel Saver App, which gives Tasmanians the information they need to find the cheapest fuel near them and to monitor prices.

"It's also important to use discounted fuel incentives such as the United Petroleum RACT discount, which saves motorists 6c per litre when they fill up.

"Our stats have shown that our members collectively saved \$1.14 million last financial year using the discount program.

"While it won't always be possible, we also encourage Tasmanians to embrace other forms of transport where possible, such as catching the bus or ferry, walking or riding a bike."

Mr Bailey said Tasmanians could also cut their fuel bills by up to 25 per cent with a range of measures, including:

- Tyres kept inflated at the recommended level.
- Avoid harsh acceleration and braking.
- Avoid leaving a vehicle idling for long period while stationary.
- Reduce weight by removing unnecessary items from the vehicle.
- Remove roof racks when not in use.
- Stick to speed limits.
- Keep your vehicle well maintained.

Visit [www.ract.com.au/cars-and-driving/fuel-saver-app](http://www.ract.com.au/cars-and-driving/fuel-saver-app) for more information about the free RACT Fuel Saver App.

The Australian Automobile Association (AAA) Affordability Index Q3 2022 report is available here: <https://data.aaa.asn.au/transport-affordability/>