



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**18 August 2020**

## **Least affordable transport costs in nation continue to hurt Tasmanians**

Tasmanians are subject to the least affordable transport costs in the nation, according to a new report.

The Australian Automobile Association's quarterly Transport Affordability Index shows on average, people living in Hobart are spending a higher percentage of their income on transport (15.7 per cent) than those in any other capital city.

Launceston topped the unaffordability list for regional centres, with 15.6 per cent of income spent on transport on average. Alice Springs was the next least affordable regional centre, with 12.8 per cent of income spent on transport on average.

Hobart and Launceston have been the least affordable capital and regional city respectively for the past four quarters.

RACT Chief Member Experience Officer Stacey Pennicott said high fuel costs, which continued to leave Tasmanians out of pocket compared to their mainland counterparts, needed to be addressed.

"Tasmanians continue to be left in the unenviable position of having the highest fuel costs and fuel expenditure in the nation combined with some of the nation's lowest average earnings," Ms Pennicott said.

"The typical Hobart household spent \$64.69 a week on fuel in the June 2020 quarter – the highest amount for any capital city in the nation.

"If Hobart had the same fuel prices as Perth, households would save over \$500 per year. In the current economic conditions this is a more than significant amount that could make a real difference to many families struggling to make ends meet.

"In Launceston, drivers spend even more on fuel, with it costing the average household \$72.60 to fill up the tank each week.

"As part of our 2020-21 State Budget submission, RACT has called on the Tasmanian Government to implement mandatory real-time price reporting, which has been shown to work in other states.

"With COVID-19 hurting the whole community and household budgets stretched to the limit, the last thing we need is to be paying more than our fair share for fuel."