

Perth: City of Cars

Currently there are 2.8 million driver-only car trips in Perth every day. This is high by world standards and if we don't make significant changes to our reliance on cars then we might end up with pollution and traffic problems on par with Los Angeles.

In Perth we are facing rising temperatures and lower rainfalls as a result of climate change from the Greenhouse Effect. We are already experiencing water shortages and increased risk of bush fire.

Perth must change from its heavy reliance on cars and truck freight if it is to be a "clean" city.

- **Car emissions are a major contributor to enhanced global warming**, water & air pollution and waste products.

Oil

- **Excessive driving hurts the economy.** It increases our dependence on foreign oil....and **the meter is still ticking** on the hidden health, social and environmental costs.

Oil is a finite resource and the price of petrol is increasing all of the time. We need to address over-use of petrol in the same way that we address over-use of water: be conservative. Simply switching to another fuel source will only force the price of that fuel up.

We need a new way. Building more highways through existing suburbs has never solved traffic problems. Inevitably, we need to review our transportation



and planning policies so we have a balanced choice of transport alternatives.

Alternatives to The Car Culture

Think about it! Next time you reach for your car keys take a moment and consider if you can make that trip in a different way. 20% of car trips are less than 2km. The Heart Foundation recommends at least 30 minutes of moderate physical exercise every day. Perhaps a 10-minute walk or cycle to the shop and back could help the environment as well as your health and save you money.

Some Easy To Introduce Alternatives: • Divert highway funds into providing light rail transport throughout the metro area, improving rail freight infrastructure and making existing roads safer.

- Ensure that trucks pay the full cost of damage to roads and health and environmental impacts.
- Increase funding to the TravelSmart traffic management scheme. Extend it to all suburbs. (This has helped people find environmentally friendly ways to commute, saved them money and improved fitness levels).
- Traffic light co-ordination and speed advisory systems along major roads to improve traffic flow.
- Complete the Perth Mandurah Railway and rail links to Kenwick, Cockburn and Fremantle as soon as possible.
- Backloading of trucks to & from Fremantle Port.
- Provide more bus priority lanes and provide incentives to companies with car-sharing policies. (Single occupancy vehicles cost the public 3 times as much per mile as buses or trains.)
- **Cars are a large source of air pollution.** This pollution causes health problems and harms trees and crops.
- **Excessive driving erodes community life.** It consumes public spaces and makes city streets generally unpleasant places to be.
- **Invest in and prioritise alternatives.** Transportation spending overwhelmingly favours autos and highways. We must balance spending--reprogramming highway funds into public transit, trams and local CAT buses, bicycling & walking facilities and other alternatives.