

RAA Member Panel

Road User Charging Survey

Road user charges are the fees imposed on motorists for the use of roads. These include stamp duty, fuel excise, vehicle registration fees, licensing fees, heavy vehicle permits, luxury car taxes and customs charges on imported cars. It can also include tolls, congestion taxes and distance-based charges. The charges are mainly designed to generate revenue for building and maintaining roads.

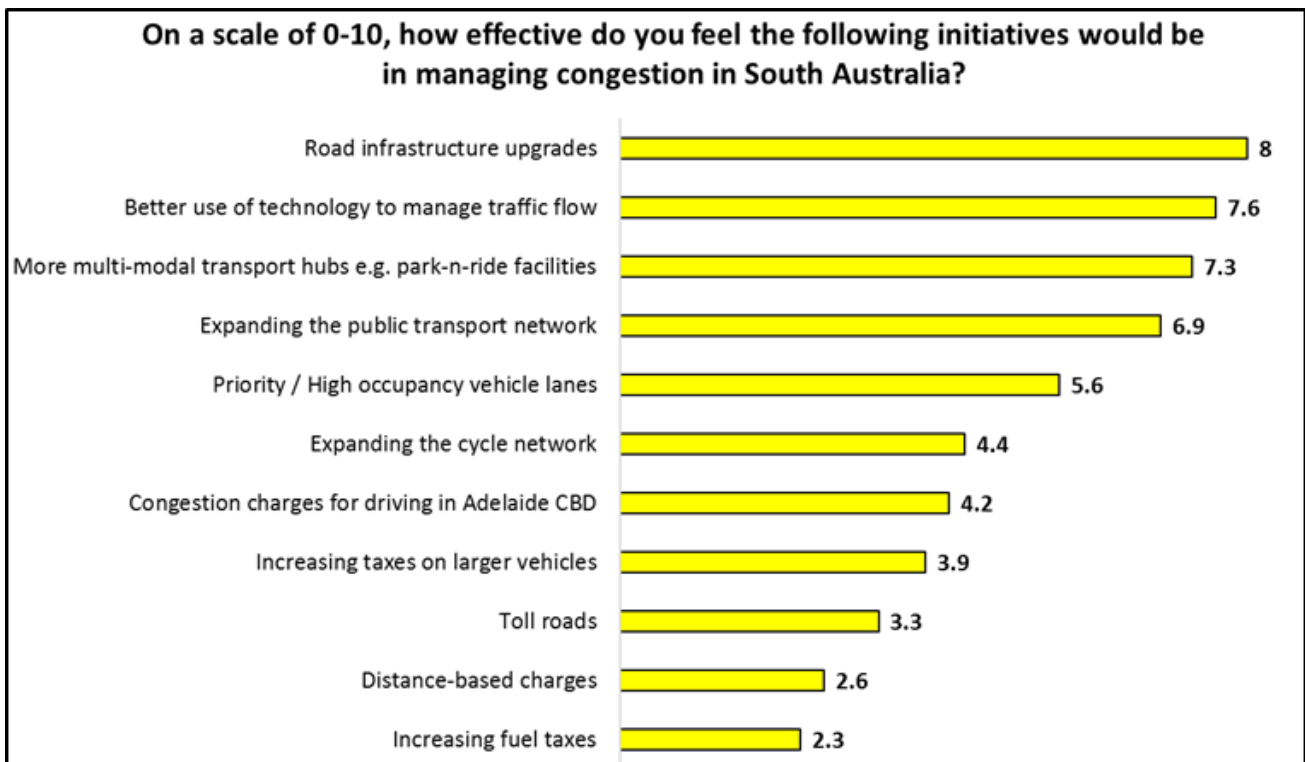
In July 2019 the RAA Road Safety team conducted a survey to explore member attitudes towards road user charging in South Australia. The survey was distributed via email, with responses collected from 2nd – 16th July 2019. The sample size was 1,019 individuals based on the total number of responses received.

Managing Congestion

Most respondents expect congestion on South Australian roads will be somewhat worse (51%) or about the same (27%) in 12 months' time. However, over the next 5 years most believe congestion will be much worse (44%) or somewhat worse (40%).

The most effective method for improving congestion is believed to be road infrastructure improvements, followed by better use of technology to manage traffic flow and more multi-modal transport hubs. The methods considered least effective were all examples of road user charging, with increased fuel taxes, distance-based charges and toll roads ranked lowest.

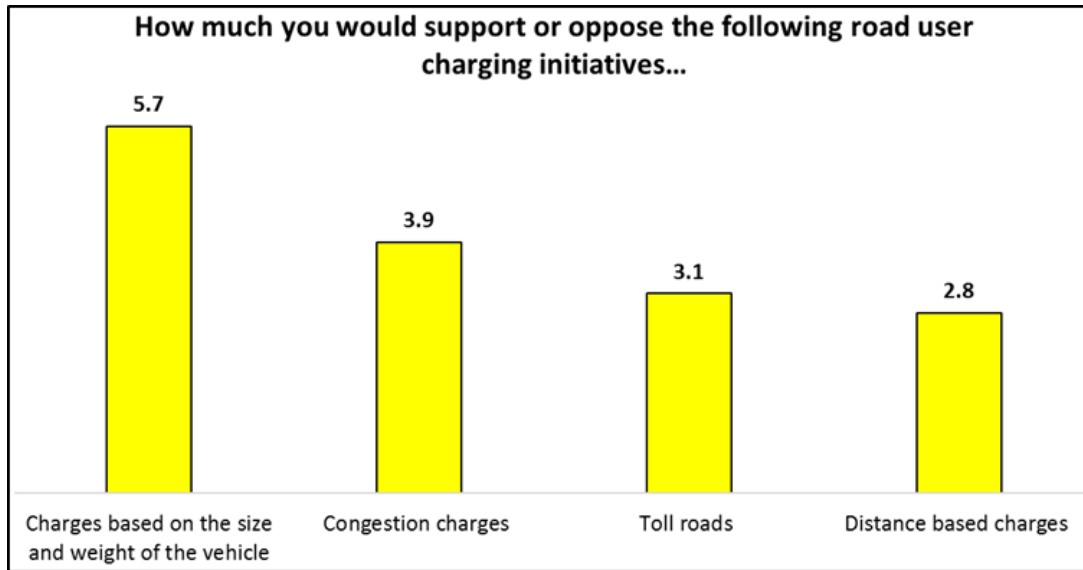
Respondents were able to provide further comment regarding congestion on SA roads, with many referring to the impact of roadworks and signal coordination on traffic flow, along with the benefits that could be achieved by increasing public transport efficiency and patronage.



**Means shown are the average rating out of 10 (where 0 = Not at all effective and 10 = Very effective).*

Road user charging

When presented with four examples of road user charging, respondents were most supportive of vehicle size and weight charges. The least amount of support was shown for distance-based charges.



*Means shown are the average rating out of 10 (where 0 = Strongly oppose and 10 = Strongly support).

Respondents were then asked to consider potential changes to the current system of road user charging. The most support was shown for road user charges which are paid by all road users including cyclists, motorbike riders and electric vehicles. A reasonable amount of support was also shown towards changes that incorporated equivalent reductions in public transport fares.

Fuel excise

Most respondents (95%) were aware that a fuel excise is charged to motorists, however 22% were surprised to know the amount (currently 41.6 cents per litre for petrol or diesel). Around 19% feel that this amount is a fair price to pay, but 64% disagreed and feel it is unreasonable.

Almost all respondents (96%) feel that money raised from the fuel excise should be used to fund road infrastructure and maintenance. Around 6 in 10 people believe public transport infrastructure (66%) and road safety initiatives (61%) are also acceptable uses for the money raised.

