

RAA Member Panel

Car parking survey

In March 2019 RAA conducted an online survey regarding car parking in South Australia.

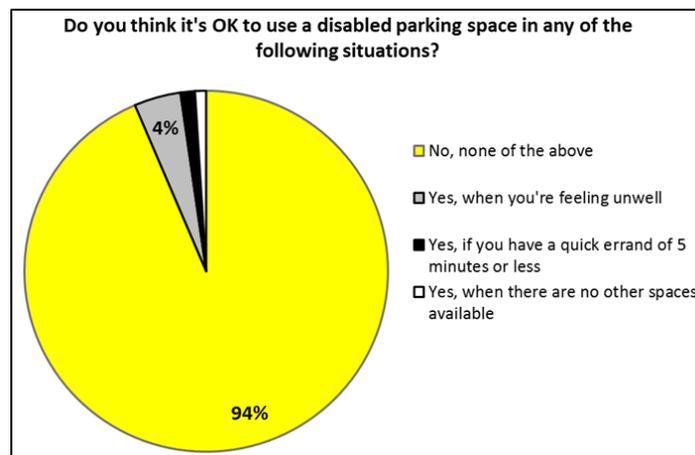
The survey was distributed via email and RAA social media (Facebook and Twitter), with responses collected from 26th March – 9th April 2019. The sample size was 1,339 individuals based on the total responses received.

Permit parking

Respondents were asked if they feel it is acceptable to use a disabled car park in certain situations such as when they're feeling unwell, if they're just running a quick errand or when there are no other spaces available. Almost all respondents (94%) feel that it is unacceptable to use a disabled space in any of these circumstances, although 4% believe it's acceptable to do so when you're feeling unwell.

When asked when it is ok to park in a disabled parking space, 82% correctly answered 'when you have a disability parking permit displayed'. A small number of respondents (15%) believe it is acceptable to do so when picking up someone who is disabled, however a valid permit must also be displayed in this instance.

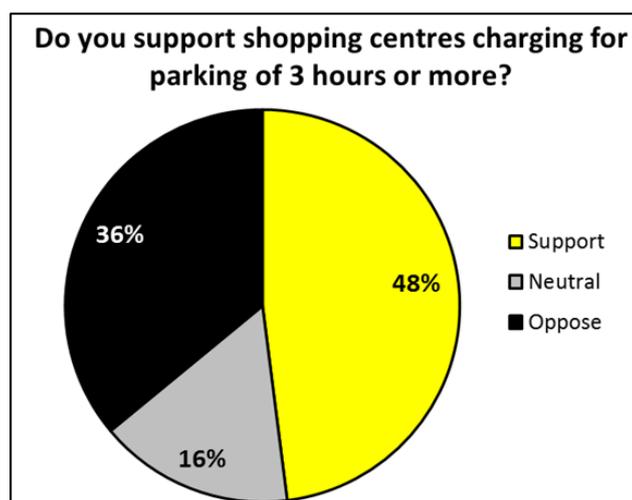
Most people (83%) believe drivers should be fined for parking in a disabled space without a valid permit.



Shopping centre parking

Respondents were asked whether they supported shopping centres limiting and/or charging for parking of 3 hours or more, to which almost 50% supported this practice. When asked about paid parking at shopping centres in general, only 3% said they would be willing to pay to park at their local shopping centre.

Most people support the inclusion of wider parking spaces for parents with prams and seniors at shopping centres (81%), in fact 56% of people don't think there are currently enough of these spaces.



Car parking behaviours

For 50% of respondents, convenience and ease of access are the most important factors when choosing where to park. This is followed by cost, which was most important for 19% and safety is most important for 18%. Almost 6 in 10 people (58%) prefer off-street parking compared to 7% that prefer on-street and 33% who have no preference.

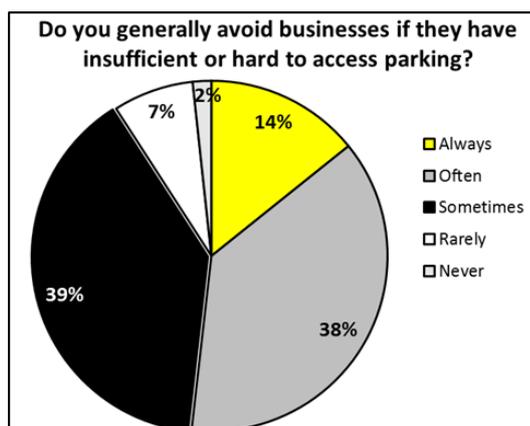
A recent *samotor* article highlighted that when no speed limit signs are displayed in a car park the 50 km/h default speed limit applies, although RAA recommends travelling at a speed that does not endanger pedestrians. We asked respondents what they believe to be the maximum speed limit in this situation, with 82% indicating 10 km/hour should apply.

Doing business in SA

The majority (66%) feel that business hubs in South Australia are hampered by inadequate parking, with only 18% that would disagree. Most people indicated they tend to avoid businesses with insufficient or hard to access parking.

Most people feel that the balance of short and long term parking options in the suburbs is about right (43%), however 17% feel there are not enough long-term options available and 11% feel short-term parking is lacking. For the CBD, 24% feel there is not enough short-term parking available, while 19% feel access to long-term parking is an issue.

Around 44% of people had attended events over the past 12 months in South Australia in which they felt insufficient parking was available.



Residential parking

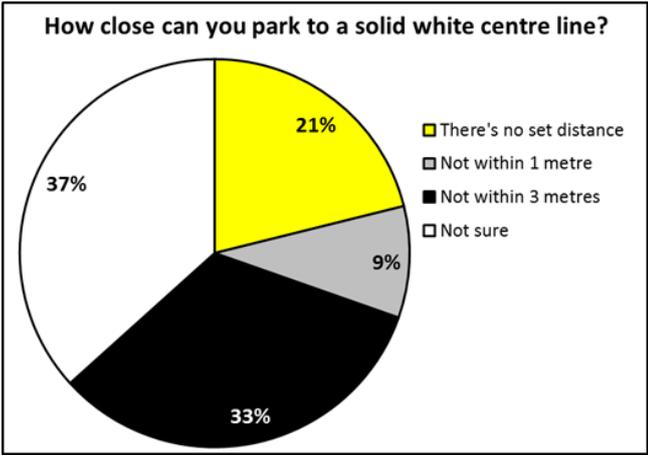
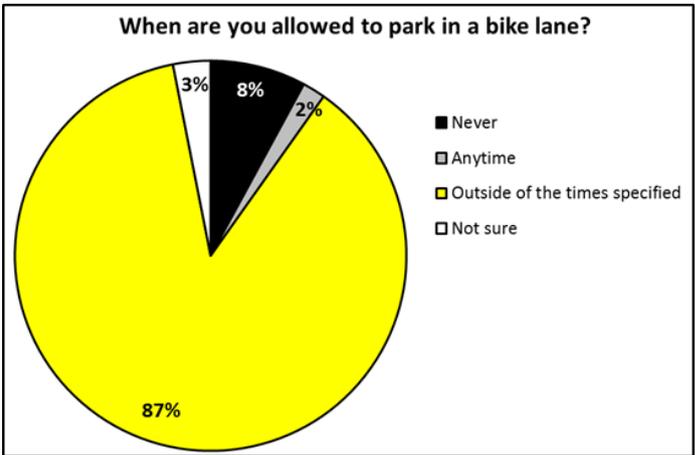
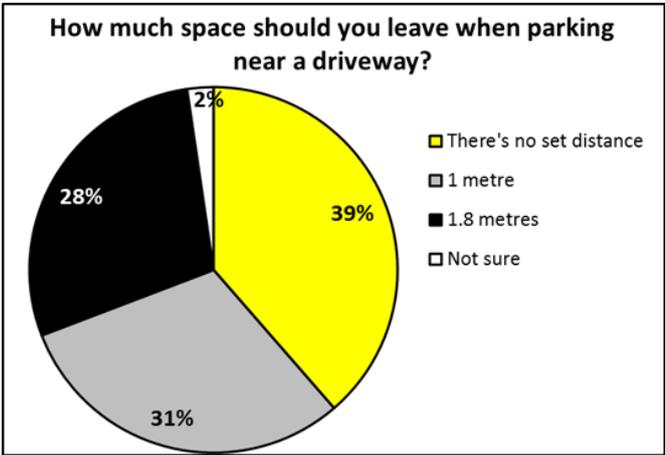
For those respondents that indicated they experience issues at their home address with on-street parking, the most common was difficulties navigating the street due to parked cars blocking visibility (36%). This was followed by a lack of parking available for visitors (27%) and difficulties with council rubbish collection (24%).

Parking legislation

When asked how much space is required to be left when parking near a driveway, 39% correctly answered 'there is no set distance'. Approximately a third of respondents believe a 1m space is required, while 28% believe 1.8m is required.

Respondents were asked to indicate the times at which they are permitted to park in a bike lane. In response, 87% correctly answered 'outside of the times specified', however 8% of respondents believe they are never allowed to park in a bike lane.

Finally, respondents were asked about the rules relating to the parking distance required near a solid white centre line. Only a third of respondents (33%) correctly answered 'not within 3 metres'. The majority of respondents (37%) selected 'not sure', with 21% believing there is no set distance required.



The future of car parking

Respondents were asked if they would consider renting out their driveway or garage for use as a parking space by others, to which more than three quarters (77%) indicated they would not be willing to do so.

In regards to electric vehicle charging facilities, 60% of respondents feel it is important to include supporting infrastructure within parking areas for electric vehicles.

When presented with several options that could reduce the demand for end of journey parking and reliance on private transport, the initiative which received the greatest support was 'increased park-and-ride facilities' (66.8%), followed by 'expansion of the bus network' (54.7%) and 'expansion of the train network' (50.2%).

