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Safety concerns and declining confidence in transport dominate Survey results

Fewer than half of Australian travellers believe that the nation’s roads are “relatively safe” while a declining number of people have confidence in transport in their local area, according to the quarterly Transport Opinion Survey (TOPS).

Around 60 per cent of participants in the survey, undertaken by the University of Sydney Business School’s internationally respected Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies (ITLS), said that at least one major accident occurred on their regular routes every three months.

Nearly 20 per cent of West Australians said that up to three accidents occurred on their regular travel routes per month while at the other end of the scale, only 11 per cent of South Australians reported up to three accidents per month.

“What this suggests is that the travelling public still regards travelling by road as unsafe,” said ITLS Director, Professor David Hensher. “They clearly feel that there is significant room for improvement in the safety of the road environment.”

The survey also found that very few travellers have faith in their government’s ability to ease congestion or improve public transport over the next 12 months.

Only 15 per cent of New South Wales residents believe that transport in their local area will be better in a year from now while 39 per cent of Victorian residents expect an improvement over the next 12 months.

The ITLS index, which monitors the public’s transport expectations continues to decline. From a starting point of 100 in 2010, the index in relation to expectations of an improvement in transport over the next year now stands at 66 while the five year outlook stands at 71.

In a question related to toll payments, the TOPS survey found that in nearly 80 per cent of cases the charge is met by the driver. In around 15 per cent of cases the cost is shared by the driver and a passenger while the driver’s employer picks up the tab less than five per cent of the time.

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