

## FACT SHEET

### **The Effects of Traffic Congestion on Fuel Consumption and Vehicle Emissions**

**The RACQ measured the effects on fuel consumption and emissions of travelling in peak-hour traffic compared to normal daytime conditions**

#### **How was the test done?**

The test used two family-sized cars making typical commuter return journeys into the Brisbane central area for consecutive five days. The travel times, fuel consumption and calculated carbon dioxide emissions were then compared with another five return trips made on the same routes in the time between morning and afternoon peak-hours.

#### **What were the results?**

As expected, both fuel consumption and journey times increased in congested traffic conditions. The comparison test showed:

- Fuel consumption, and therefore carbon dioxide emissions, increased by an average of 30% for the two vehicles when travelling in congested conditions compared to daytime traffic.
- Inbound peak-hour journey times increased by an average of 85% over daytime trips for the two routes.
- Outbound peak-hour journey times increased by an average of 38% over daytime trips for the two routes.

#### **What do these results mean for motorists?**

When trying to save fuel and reduce vehicle emissions, motorists often consider the type of vehicle they choose and how efficiently they drive. This test shows that avoiding peak period travel could be just as significant in reducing fuel consumption and emissions as choosing to drive a car with a four-cylinder engine instead of a six. It is clear that motorists looking to reduce their vehicle's fuel consumption and emissions should avoid congested roads whenever practicable.

#### **What else can I do to save fuel and cut emissions?**

See the RACQ Tips for Greener Motoring on our website at:

[http://www.racq.com.au/cps/rde/xchg/racq/cms\\_production/hs.xsl/greenerMotoring\\_ENA\\_HTML.htm](http://www.racq.com.au/cps/rde/xchg/racq/cms_production/hs.xsl/greenerMotoring_ENA_HTML.htm)

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