

Manly motorists face Australia's slowest commute

Two year study finds Northern Beaches' cars travel at just 18kph during peak times

August 2, 2011 - Motorists from Manly face Australia's most arduous trip to work, according to the country's most comprehensive commuter study of Australia's busiest roads.

The study, which uses hundreds of millions of speed readings over a two-year period, found motorists travelling at peak times between Manly and the Sydney CBD had an average travel speed of 18kph – the slowest of any commute of any capital city on the surveyed arterial roads. Neighbouring Dee Why was the second worst in the country at 20kph.

Intelematics, the company behind SUNA Traffic Channel, has undertaken an analysis along major commuter routes to the CBD in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide to provide an overview of the traffic conditions in each capital city.

The study also found while drivers travelling from the Northern Beaches had a particularly slow run, those coming to the CBD from Bankstown had the fastest average speed of 34kph during peak periods.

The study is the most extensive of its kind undertaken in Australia and uses content from the SUNA high density traffic service as its data source. Hundreds of millions of actual speed measurements are collected by Intelematics and analysed at the SUNA Operations Centre in Melbourne. Traffic flow samples for each road segment were taken approximately every 30 seconds and averaged at 15 minute intervals covering all motorways and arterial roads over a two-year period.

Adam Game, Chief Executive Officer, Intelematics Australia, said the daily commute can be stressful and frustrating for some drivers. Being well-informed about traffic patterns including which days to allow more time to complete their journey into work can help motorists have a better driving experience.

“By analysing major commuter routes we were able to determine how much peak traffic periods slow down a journey compared with non-peak travel periods. Sydney and Brisbane drivers have the highest increase in travel times of all cities involved in the study with increases in travel times of around 100% for some routes. Melbourne was not far behind with an increase of over 95% in travel time between peak and off-peak on some journeys.”

“Travelling to the airport can vary by up to 15 minutes on average depending on the time of the day, so it’s important that arrival time estimations are accurate and that they reflect the time of the day and day of the week in which the journey is being taken,” said Game.

Other key findings from the study include:

- The peak hour commute from Parramatta had the largest decrease in speed compared to non-peak hour travel for all other locations. The fastest travel time averaged 51kph while at the slowest time drivers only averaged 25kph, less than half the speed or twice the travel time
- When travelling from Parramatta, the worst time to leave is around 7.30am where a trip to the CBD will take around 55 minutes. Leaving at 6.30am cuts that to around 45 minutes while early birds leaving around 5.30am can make the trip to the CBD in less than 35 minutes
- In general Sydney’s peak traffic build up starts around 6am and is at its worst between 7.30 and 8am
- Driving home from work is a faster trip for all routes when compared with the journey into work except when travelling from the airport. During peak hour inbound to the CBD takes around 25 minutes most days while CBD to the airport is over 30 minutes on Friday
- The best time to take a trip to the airport during peak traffic is a Monday, with the journey from the CBD being around 23 minutes
- The biggest difference in speed when comparing the journey into work with the journey home from work is from Dee Why, with a difference of 13 minutes. The quickest being CBD to Dee Why taking approximately 45 minutes while Dee Why to the CBD takes closer to 55 minutes
- The slowest journey into the CBD for Sydneysiders most typically occurs on Tuesday
- The slowest journey home from the CBD occurs on Friday, as it does in all other cities analysed
- Generally between around midday (10am and 1pm) the roads are just as busy on a Saturday as they are on weekdays and only a bit faster at this time on a Sunday
- Between midnight and the early hours of the following morning, traffic is slower on Saturday/Sunday than any other day with drivers generally driving 5 to 10kph slower. this does not appear to be related to traffic slowing them down

City commuter snapshots

If you want the quickest commute to work in the morning you need to leave around 3.30am, no matter which city you live in. Not much is gained by leaving at this time compared with 6am but after 6am traffic really starts to build and slow down the commute. The time to avoid leaving for the city is between 7 and 8.30am, this is the peak wave that moves into the city and has the longest travel times.

Sydney

- Popular Sydney routes measured were Parramatta, Epping, Manly, Dee Why, Hornsby, Bankstown and Sydney Airport
- The highest average speed across these trips was 66kph while this slowed to 34kph during peak times, this was for Bankstown
- The slowest off peak average travel speed was 33kph for trips from Manly and this slowed to 18kph in peak hours

Melbourne

- Popular Melbourne routes measured were Box Hill, Dandenong, Frankston, Mentone, Laverton, Thomastown and Melbourne Airport
- The highest average speed across these trips was 78kph slowing to 53kph during peak times, this was for Frankston
- The slowest off peak average travel speed was 40kph for trips from Thomastown. This slowed to 24kph during peak hours

Brisbane

- Popular Brisbane routes measured were Darra, Eight Mile Plains, Nudgee, Samford Village, Gold Coast and Brisbane Airport
- The highest average speed across these trips was 71kph slowing to 36kph during peak times, this was for Eight Mile Plains
- The slowest off peak average travel speed was 50kph for trips from Samford Village. This slowed to 30kph during peak hours

Perth

- Popular Perth routes measured were the Airport, Fremantle, Martin, Bellevue, Kingsley, Scarborough, Peppermint Grove and the Airport. The highest average speed across these trips was 75kph slowing to 46kph during peak times, this was for Fremantle

- The slowest off peak average travel speed was 45kph for trips from Martin. This slowed to 30kph during peak hours

Adelaide

- Popular Adelaide routes measured were Crafers, Port Adelaide, Seacliff, Mt Barker, Tea Tree Gully and the Airport
- The highest average speed across these trips was 70kph slowing to 43kph during peak times, this was for Mt Barker
- The slowest off peak average travel speed was 38kph for trips from Port Adelaide. This slowed to 23kph during peak hours

SUNA is Australia's first digital traffic information service that broadcasts detailed information on traffic congestion and other road conditions directly to compatible GPS devices, mobile phones and in-vehicle satellite navigation systems. SUNA uses its extensive data and coverage to provide both real time traffic services and historic data, called SUNA Predictive. SUNA Predictive is a database of statistically normalised travel speeds for main roads that supports the prediction of future speeds or travel times based on historical averages.

Real-time traffic updates from SUNA have already been adopted by the majority of the leading portable GPS device manufacturers including Garmin and Navman. Aside from the high-volume PND market, Intelomatics has also developed significant partnerships within the in-car satellite navigation space. SUNA is now available in Ford, Holden, Honda, Mercedes Benz, Nissan, Subaru and Toyota as well as aftermarket in-car navigation brands like Pioneer, Eclipse and Alpine.

More information on Intelomatics and SUNA Predictive can be found at

www.intelomatics.com.au

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About Intelomatics Australia

Intelomatics Australia is a wholly owned subsidiary of the RACV and is a founding member of Global Response – a strategic telematics alliance covering Europe, North America and Australia, with more than 80 million motoring club members.

Globally recognised for innovation, Intelomatics Australia's services include safety and security, fleet and workforce management, real-time traffic information and navigation, together with a range of real-time motorist information and convenience services. Intelomatics also provides enhanced remote vehicle diagnostic and eCRM services.

Intelematics Australia is a leading provider of OEM telematics programs within the Asia Pacific region and works in partnership with its clients to create tailored programs that bring benefit to vehicle manufacturers, their maintenance and retail channels, and motorists.

SUNA Traffic Channel, operated by Intelematics, has been adopted by leading brands including Alpine, Continental, Eclipse, Ford, Garmin, Google, Holden, Honda, Mio, Navigon, Navman, Navteq, Navway, ninemsn, Nissan, Nokia, Pioneer, Toyota, Uniden, Mitsubishi, Subaru, Samsung, Mercedes-Benz, Clarion and Pump TV.

The RDS-TMC service now covers more than 95 per cent of the Australian main metropolitan population, with coverage in VIC, NSW, QLD, ACT, SA, and WA. SUNA is Australia's only digital traffic service broadcast using the international RDS-TMC standard which is supported by most GPS and automotive brands. SUNA content is also offered to developers of online and smart-phone applications.

For more information on Intelematics, visit www.intelematics.com.au

Media queries to:

Alicia Aldini
Blackie McDonald
02 8907 4900