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Author: Kent Acott
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We pay less for car rego, insurance

■ Kent Acott

WA motorists pay less for car registration and third-party insurance than drivers in all other mainland States.

An analysis in the Insurance Commission of WA annual report shows the average annual cost for a family car in WA is \$656 — \$421 for third-party insurance (including the new catastrophic injury insurance premium) and \$235 for car registration.

This compares with \$989 in NSW, \$903 in Canberra and \$749 in South Australia.

Only Tasmania recorded a lower cost, \$556.

Commission chief executive Rod Whithear said the relatively low cost of motor injury insurance was largely due to WA's obsession with cars.

"West Australians like their cars," he said. "There are 1.8 million licensed drivers in WA and they own 2.9 million registered vehicles, including caravans and trailers.

"West Australians own more vehicles per head of population and per licensed driver than most of Australia, the US and the UK.

"The high number of insured

vehicles helps keep the cost of insurance for WA motorists low."

Mr Whithear said the annual cost of \$421 for motor injury insurance in WA was substantially cheaper than similar insurance in NSW (\$717), the ACT (\$591), the Northern Territory (\$547), South Australia (\$512) and Victoria (\$510).

"The cost of motor injury insurance in WA includes the new no-fault catastrophic injury insurance, which was introduced in July last year," he said. "The Insurance Commission now runs two motor injury insurance schemes — the catastrophic injuries support scheme and the compulsory third-party scheme.

"It is pleasing to report the commission's 2017 administration costs for both schemes were \$2.3 million lower than budget.

"These are great outcomes for the organisation and WA motorists."

Mr Whithear said the number of new motor injury insurance claims increased by 11.3 per cent in 2016-17 with more than \$462 million in claims payments made to people injured in crashes.

He said the estimated future claims liability was \$2.2 billion.