



Infrastructure Victoria is calling for a pay-as-you-go system.

Push to scrap rego and myki

TRANSPORT

Timna Jacks

Car insurance, registration and myki fees should be replaced with a pay-as-you-go system in a major shake-up of transport pricing aimed at easing peak-hour congestion on roads and railways.

Infrastructure Victoria is calling for a pricing scheme that would mean all commuters – no matter their mode of transport – pay for the distance they travel, with a premium added to peak-hour trips.

This model would remove 168,000 cars from the state's roads and improve travel speeds by 25 per cent while making transport cheaper for up to 85 per cent of Victorians, new research shows.

"Victoria's transport network is struggling to meet demand, with congested roads and crowded public transport," said the paper.

"Our population is projected to grow bigger and faster, so the pressures on our transport system will only get worse." Car costs, including registration, stamp duty, TAC and

the fuel excise would be replaced with a distance-based charge of 15¢ for every kilometre travelled, Infrastructure Victoria proposes. A \$1-a-kilometre surcharge would be applied in the inner city during the morning and evening peaks.

The model would extend to public transport, with train commuters paying \$1.57 a kilometre, tram-users 74¢ and bus-users just 34¢.

Welfare organisations say congestion charges typically disadvantage the poor, and that this is the wrong time to contemplate pricing.