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COVID crunch: why it's time to ditch the second car

RACQ has urged drivers to consider selling their second car or downsizing the family fleet as the impact of the economic crisis placed continued pressure on Queenslanders' budgets.

The Club today released its list of the 10 cheapest vehicles to own and run by category after analysing 80 of the most popular cars on the market.

RACQ spokesperson Lauren Ritchie said there could be thousands of dollars difference in running costs between popular vehicles and their cheaper alternative.

"We're in the middle of an economic crisis where millions of people are feeling the pinch and downsizing the family fleet is one change that can really help you save," Ms Ritchie said.

"If you're hanging onto a car which is hemorrhaging money and not giving you any value then you could be doing yourself out tens of thousands of dollars a year."

Ms Ritchie said the cheapest car to run in Queensland was the Suzuki Baleno, costing households \$153 per week, while the most expensive was the Nissan Patrol costing \$520 per week.

"Downgrading by class, or downsizing your vehicles is a good start but we also encourage those families with two or three cars in the garage to think about selling either the most expensive to run, or the least used," she said.

"If you're driving a large SUV like a Toyota Kluger you could downgrade to a medium sized family car like a Toyota Camry and save almost seven thousand dollars a year," she said.

"Even switching to a cheaper car in the same class is worth it. Swapping from a Nissan Patrol to a Toyota Fortuner will see you almost ten thousand dollars a year better off."

However, Ms Ritchie cautioned drivers never to compromise on safety over value.

"Safety has to be your first priority because in the event of a crash, money won't be saving you from injury," she said.

"Ensure you look at the ANCAP safety rating of these cars and the safety features they have as standard."

RACQ's full list could be [viewed here](#).

RACQ is Queensland's largest club and peak independent motoring organisation. We were formed in 1905 to represent the interests of the State's first motorists and today campaign for safer drivers, vehicles and roads on behalf of more than 1.7 million members who own the Club. We offer those members a vast range of motoring, insurance, banking, entertainment and travel services and benefits, and each year respond to more than a million calls for roadside assistance.

Vehicle class	Model	Cost per week
Light car	Suzuki Baleno GL	\$153*
Small car	Kia Cerato S	\$179
Medium car	Toyota Camry Ascent Hybrid	\$218
Electric car	Hyundai Ioniq Elite Plug-In Hybrid	\$254
Small SUV	Hyundai Venue GO	\$189
Medium SUV	Mazda CX-5 Maxx 2.5 AWD	\$252
Large SUV	Subaru Outback 2.5i AWD	\$280
All terrain	Toyota Fortuner GX 2.8	\$321
Light commercial 2x4	Mitsubishi MY20 Triton GLX	\$270
Light commercial 4x4	Mitsubishi Triton GLX 4x4	\$294

*No ANCAP safety rating

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