



 [Print this article](#) |  [Close this window](#)

## Another budget blow: private vehicle rebate abolished

Chenee Marrapodi

Published: July 10, 2014 - 3:58PM

Balga resident Robert Fitzgerald was shocked to discover his car registration had gone up by almost \$100 since last year - partly the result of the private vehicle rebate being abolished.

The 74-year-old has had his 1983 Toyota Landcruiser for 31 years and said he would have to rethink his budget to keep it running.

"You set yourself a budget and you try and stick to it, but when you keep getting these increases all the time it's pretty hard to manage," Mr Fitzgerald said.

The private vehicle rebate was cut from \$72 to \$36 on January 1, before being completely abolished in May's State Budget, effective from July 1.

Opposition Treasury spokesman Ben Wyatt said the abolition was yet another blow for seniors.

"For some seniors this increase has wiped out the reduced seniors cost of living rebate," Mr Wyatt said.

"This is why seniors are so frustrated - the message doesn't seem to be getting through to Mr Barnett."

On Wednesday, Premier Colin Barnett criticised West Australians for being grumpy over "relatively insignificant issues".

Mr Fitzgerald said seniors had every right to be grumpy because the government had not given them any warning.

The biggest change to his bill was the increase in the licence fee - jumping from \$120.50 last year to \$198.10 this year.

"They just come out of the blue and say 'well we're doing this, we're doing that' - and we've just got to put up with it," Mr Fitzgerald said.

"I feel grumpy because we're having to put up with all these costs."

Transport Minister Dean Nalder said the rebate was not a concession and applied to everyone.

"As a government we have been asked to make some tough decisions," Mr Nalder said.

"Despite the abolition of this rebate, the 2014-15 registration fee (including compulsory third party insurance) in Western Australia will be the second lowest of all States and Territories."

For an average six cylinder vehicle, the 2014-15 registration fee (including compulsory third party insurance) has increased from \$510.38 to \$582.90.

Across Australia, the fee ranges from \$494 in Tasmania to \$1021.30 in the ACT.

*This story was found at: <http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/another-budget-blow-private-vehicle-rebate-abolished-20140710-zt3bk.html>*