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Drivers are in a real jam

Rebecca Beisler

More than a third of Victoria's drivers are finding their commute to work is taking longer - and it's not going to get any better, according to an urban planning expert.

A nationwide survey of 2500 people by Budget Direct claims 35 per cent of Australians are spending longer behind the wheel on their way to work.

While 18 per cent said it took an extra 15 minutes to get to work compared with two years ago, 8 per cent endured half an hour longer and 2 per cent said clogged roads took an extra 45 minutes out of their day.

Only 7 per cent blamed a change of work location for the increase.

Victoria's roads were the

worst, with 38 per cent of drivers saying their commute took longer compared with Queensland (37) and Sydney (31).

Melbourne University senior lecturer in urban planning, Dr Carolyn Whitzman, said with the population booming roads would only get more clogged.

"It's not going to get any better, it's going to get worse," Whitzman said.

"We are still so dependent on cars (but) it would be very, very expensive to keep up with the road infrastructure needed to meet the demand," she said.

Whitzman said the only solution was significant investment in public transport.

But she said drivers were reluctant to make the switch to Melbourne's trains and trams because the system was not fast or reliable enough.