



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 11 May 2004

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Q-Fleet

Hon. P.D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.44 a.m.): Finally today, I want to provide in an unprecedented way information to the House. The following information relates to traffic infringements involving Queensland government vehicles in the 2003 calendar year.

The information has been extracted by downloading data from TRAILS—the Transport Registration and Integrated Licensing System. It took 8.25 hours to define the search criteria, prepare a review, test and run a statutory query language, extract data from TRAILS, and monitor the progress of the data extract. It cost an estimated \$910 to collect the TRAILS data. Separate information has also been collected from the Queensland Police Service, the Queensland Ambulance Service and the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service.

The TRAILS data show that drivers of Q-Fleet vehicles have a lower average traffic infringement rate than the state average. Q-Fleet vehicles include departmental vehicles, ministerial cars, government owned corporation cars, and vehicles leased to other groups through Q-Fleet's business arm. It includes QG numberplated vehicles and privately plated vehicles. The infringements referred to include all road rule offences, such as speeding, disobeying traffic lights and failing to give way.

We have a clear policy on payment of infringement notices, which I approved through the Office of Public Service Merit and Equity on 1 May 2002. The policy is designed so that infringement notices issued against government vehicles do not cost the taxpayer.

The policy says that employees operating government owned motor vehicles are to comply with traffic laws and—

Drivers are to be personally liable for all penalties incurred whilst driving a vehicle, including those for parking infringements. When advice of the infringement is received, agencies are required to notify the relevant traffic authority of the names of the offending driver or, if appropriate, make arrangements for the payment of fines.

For this reason, government departments have procedures to log the drivers of government vehicles and to ensure that traffic related fines are personally paid by the responsible employees.

In a nutshell, the figures show that the rate of infringements for all Queensland registered vehicles in 2003 was 25 infringements per 100 vehicles. The rate for Q-Fleet vehicles was 15 infringements per 100 vehicles. I am advised that the rate for police vehicles was 18 per 100 vehicles. The rate for ambulance vehicles was five per 100. The rate for Fire and Rescue Service vehicles was three per 100. In 2003 an average of 13,353 vehicles were registered through Q-Fleet and they recorded 2,018 traffic infringements. That is 15 per 100 vehicles. By comparison, a total of 672,699 traffic infringements were recorded against the 2.68 million vehicles registered in Queensland. That is 25 per 100 vehicles.

Police, ambulance and Fire and Rescue Service fleets are not in Q-Fleet. The Queensland Police Service reports that 347 infringements were recorded by speed and red-light cameras against its fleet of 1,933 vehicles. That is 18 per 100 vehicles.

Records about traffic infringements for the Queensland Ambulance Service and the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service are managed regionally. Figures from the regional offices show that for the Queensland Ambulance Service there were 41 enforceable traffic infringements for a fleet of 793 vehicles. That is five per 100 vehicles. For the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service there were 14 enforceable infringements for 462 vehicles. That is three per 100 vehicles. As is the case with police officers, ambulance and fire and rescue officers who receive traffic infringements while driving emergency vehicles in response to an incident are excused from the infringement.

In the interests of transparent government, I will also seek to incorporate in *Hansard* information which has been separately collected about the number of accident insurance claims involving government vehicles. This information comes from Q-Fleet and covers the 2002-03 financial year. The accident rate shown here is 30 per cent lower than the national benchmark performance for large fleets. Obviously, we would prefer there were no accidents, but that is a fact of life. However, Q-Fleet cars clock up more than 296 million kilometres every year. So the chances of having an accident are higher than for the average family sedan. The total of claims in 2002-03 fell by 11 per cent from 2001-02. The total was \$4 million in 2002-03, a \$500,000 decrease on the previous year. I seek leave to incorporate all of those details in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

| Department | Total Fleet Size | Total Claims | Driver at Fault | Total Driver Not at Fault | Animal Strikes |
|---|------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Arts Qld | 12 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Corrective Services | 293 | 69 | 46 | 23 | 2 |
| Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Policy | 27 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 1 |
| Employment, Training and Youth | 464 | 79 | 44 | 35 | 11 |
| Innovation and Information Economy | 38 | 15 | 13 | 2 | 0 |
| Industrial Relations | 268 | 27 | 14 | 13 | 1 |
| Natural Resources & Mines | 590 | 102 | 54 | 48 | 19 |
| Primary Industries | 1040 | 197 | 114 | 83 | 39 |
| Public Works (including 650 QBuild vehicles) | 826 | 189 | 126 | 63 | 6 |
| Disability Services Qld | 239 | 56 | 36 | 20 | 3 |
| Education Qld | 703 | 133 | 57 | 76 | 28 |
| Environmental Protection Agency | 560 | 122 | 94 | 28 | 10 |
| Emergency Services | 580 | 111 | 49 | 62 | 17 |
| Families | 487 | 162 | 108 | 54 | 8 |
| Qld Health | 3187 | 626 | 350 | 276 | 65 |
| Housing | 195 | 41 | 20 | 21 | 0 |
| Justice and Attorney-General | 154 | 47 | 31 | 16 | 1 |
| Local Government and Planning | 19 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Main Roads | 994 | 191 | 107 | 84 | 27 |
| Premier and Trade (including Opposition vehicles) | 138 | 38 | 23 | 15 | 0 |
| State Development | 114 | 12 | 7 | 5 | 0 |
| Tourism, Racing and Fair Trading | 62 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 0 |
| Qld Transport | 377 | 59 | 37 | 22 | 6 |
| Treasury | 64 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| Totals | 11,431 | 2,302 | 1,348 | 910 | 244 |

Mr BEATTIE: I understand that the opposition put in an FOI claim for accidents and repairs between 10 November and 24 December. There was extra material that, as part of the reporting process, had gone

to cabinet, because once an accident occurs it does not have a cut-off date and papers flow on after that. I will be releasing that information to the House later today.