



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 6 June 2007

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Ministerial Car Fleet

**Hon. PD BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.44 am): I am delighted to report that there are no more V8s in the government's ministerial car fleet. The change over from eight-cylinder to six-cylinder vehicles was completed this week.

I am also advised by the minister for public works, Robert Swarten, that, for the first time, more than half of the government's total passenger vehicle fleet is now four cylinder. At the last count, there were 5,077 four-cylinder passenger vehicles out of the total passenger fleet of 10,058. Well done! I thank the minister for his help in these matters.

Members may recall that on 20 October 2005 I announced that the government intended to ban V8s from its passenger vehicle fleet and that eight-cylinder vehicles would be progressively replaced with six-cylinder vehicles when they came due for replacement. In the case of the ministerial car fleet, that has now happened.

The government has a long-standing policy of encouraging the use of smaller capacity vehicles throughout the government Q-Fleet with a clear preference for four-cylinder vehicles wherever possible. As at 31 May, as a direct result of these policies, the number of V8 passenger vehicles has almost halved in a year. The total number of six-cylinder vehicles in the overall fleet has dropped by 11 per cent and the number of four-cylinder vehicles across the fleet has increased by a quarter. This cascading effect will obviously continue as more and more vehicles are replaced.

The policy has a dual benefit for Queensland. The smaller capacity vehicles use less fuel and have lower emission levels for greenhouse gases. The smaller vehicles also cost less and have lower running costs. They also hold their value better in these days of high fuel costs, saving taxpayers' money. Finally, we are continuing to use ethanol and to spread its use as quickly as we possibly can.