



Speech by

Hon. Rachel Nolan

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Hansard Wednesday, 3 June 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Vehicles, Energy Efficiency

Hon. RG NOLAN (Ipswich—ALP) (Minister for Transport) (10.09 am): The Bligh government is committed to protecting our lifestyle and environment to achieve a green Queensland as we head towards Q2. I am pleased to advise that on 22 May the Australian Transport Council endorsed the vehicle fuel efficiency report, a collaboration between Australia's transport and environment agencies. On the same day the Hon. Kate Jones, Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, and her colleagues at the national Environment Protection and Heritage Council also endorsed the report.

Transport produces 10.8 per cent of Queensland's greenhouse gas emissions, with road transport contributing nine per cent. Recommendations of the report relate to vehicle standards such as carbon dioxide emission levels for new light vehicles, fiscal measures, differing duties and charges, and improved consumer information. Practical approaches that influence the whole vehicle fleet like carbon dioxide emission standards will send a positive message to the public. The central proposal in the report is for Australia to consider carbon dioxide emission standards, and this aligns with moves internationally including the recent announcement from the United States of America, which is considering pursuing a national fuel economy and greenhouse gas standard.

By 2016 car companies in the US will be expected to achieve 30 per cent better fuel efficiency, the equivalent of 6.63 litres per hundred kilometres in Australian terms. The US estimates that this will save 1.8 billion barrels of oil a day and cut greenhouse gas emissions by 900 million tonnes. Australia's vehicle industry has set itself a voluntary target of 6.8 litres per 100 kilometres by 2010, notably sooner than the American target. The Bligh government's Q2 green target is to reduce fuel consumption from 4.23 tonnes of greenhouse gasses per household for private travel.

Since January 2008, the rate of motor vehicle registration duty for light vehicles has depended on the number of cylinders, with the rate of duty increasing from a base of two per cent for hybrid and electric vehicles through to four per cent for vehicles with seven or more cylinders. This scheme values vehicles that produce much lower greenhouse gas emissions.

I am pleased that the Bligh government is working with the Rudd government and other states by endorsing the vehicle fuel efficiency report. This will go a long way towards assisting us to reach our green targets.