



Speech by

Hon. Robert Swarten

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Hansard Wednesday, 20 May 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

QFleet ClimateSmart Action Plan

Hon. RE SCHWARTEN (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Public Works and Information and Communication Technology) (9.52 am): The Queensland government is pursuing some ambitious climate objectives, and QFleet is leading by example. The QFleet ClimateSmart Action Plan came into effect on 1 January 2008 and sets out a number of targets and strategies. All are designed to reduce the greenhouse emissions from our fleet of almost 14,000 passenger and light commercial vehicles. The focus of the action plan is a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of 15 per cent by 31 December 2010, compared to emissions at 30 June 2007. QFleet is powering towards this target and by the end of March 2009 a reduction of 11 per cent had already been achieved. This means that after just 15 months of the three-year action plan our emissions savings are well ahead of schedule.

Ms Jones: Hear, hear!

Mr SCHWARTEN: I thank the environment minister for her interjection. A key strategy in this achievement has been the introduction of minimum emission standards for vehicles based on the greenhouse ratings from the Australian government's Green Vehicle Guide. The greenhouse ratings differentiate vehicles based on their carbon dioxide emissions—that is, the lower the emissions, the higher the rating. The action plan sets the standards at 5.5 for passenger vehicles and 3.5 for light commercial vehicles. I can say with some delight that we were the first state in Australia, as I understand it, to have incorporated that and it was an idea of my own.

Mr Johnson: Bacon rind under your fingernails.

Mr Hopper: Bringing home the bacon.

Mr SCHWARTEN: I see the collective wit and intelligence of the people over there on display for everybody. There is not enough to fill a thimble, and collectively none of them would get hot on the stove.

I will go through this again, as you are so interested in it. The action plan sets the standards at 5.5 for passenger vehicles and 3.5 for light commercial vehicles. By the end of March 2009, 86 per cent of the passenger fleet and 95 per cent of the light commercial fleet were compliant with those minimum greenhouse rating standards. The non-compliant vehicles are having their emissions offset, with offsets to increase to 50 per cent of the fleet by 2010 and 100 per cent by 2020.

As the action plan implementation continues, I expect to see increased numbers of hybrid, small and light vehicles, and vehicles with advanced engine technology such as new-generation diesel engine passenger cars. The 2010 target of 15 per cent emissions reduction is challenging, but the achievement of 11 per cent in the first 15 months shows that it can and will be done.

QFleet is generating jobs as well as reducing emissions. The state will soon embark on a \$147 million program of purchasing motor vehicles to lease to clients to facilitate the delivery of government services. Not only will this new emissions program help the environment, but this spend will also generate new jobs in dealerships and help protect existing jobs at the same time throughout the state.