




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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ADJOURNMENT

Electric Vehicles

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (7.15 pm): Any responsible government has policies and actions to address climate change. This government is certainly one of those. We have taken a very strong stance with our 50 per cent renewable energy target and our strong vegetation management tree-clearing laws, which were passed despite amendments moved and then subsequently withdrawn by the Greens. Queensland was the first state with an electric vehicle strategy. We also have the longest electric vehicle superhighway in one state anywhere in the world.

We are doing a range of things to support the transition to new technology and to decarbonise our transport sector. We charge less for registration of an electric vehicle and we charge less stamp duty. The reality is that every country—that is, just about every country except us—that has been successful in accelerating the transition to new technology and to decarbonise their transport sector has subsidised the price of electric vehicles. Australia is the outlier. We do not do that, because the federal government has no interest at all in doing that. We have a national electric vehicle policy in name only and, by world standards, we have very expensive prices for new electric vehicles in Australia. Sales have been anaemic, to be kind. We need a greater level of attention from the federal government to ensure we start catching up with the world. At the moment we are laggards across the world, because at the federal level we are anti electric vehicles and uninterested in doing anything. We are an embarrassment on this front.

I have raised this constantly in the media. I raised it at the federal meeting of transport ministers, including with the Deputy Prime Minister. I presented along with a representative from the Australian Capital Territory. We will continue to advocate, from a state point of view, that the federal government needs to get in this space—like every other national government that is effective—and get that price point down by introducing a subsidy. We run the very genuine risk of becoming a dumping ground for combustion engine, old-tech vehicles as other countries move in behind better technology. Even New Zealand is doing better than us. It is a comparative economy. We need to be getting into this space. It is time; it is overdue.

Queensland can only do so much as a state entity. We are obviously doing some things to reduce cost—Hyundai launched its new vehicle because of our leadership on electric vehicles—but it is time the federal government got serious on electric vehicles and climate change and addressed this very important policy area.