

Question on Notice
No. 653
Asked on 30 April 2008

MRS ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Information and Communication Technology (MR SCHWARTEN) -

QUESTION:

How will QFleet contribute to the fight against climate change by minimising emissions?

ANSWER:

From October 2005 until December 2007, a pro-active preference for four-cylinder vehicles, and an effective ban on eight-cylinder models, resulted in a progressive shift away from six-cylinder vehicles across the fleet from 7,857 to 5,143, or a reduction of 35%. The number of eight-cylinder vehicles has also significantly decreased from 331 in October 2005 to 41, a reduction of 88%.

But the initiative offering the most far reaching environmental benefits is the QFleet ClimateSmart Action Plan, which was approved by Executive Government in December 2007. Effective from 1 January 2008, the Action Plan established targets, standards and processes to deliver significant and ongoing greenhouse emissions reductions.

At the core of the Action Plan is a target to reduce the fleet's carbon dioxide emissions by 15% by 31 December 2010, when compared with a baseline of 30 June 2007.

In order to achieve this target, minimum emission standards have been set for QFleet vehicles. The standards have been based on a 'Greenhouse Ratings' system developed by the Australian Government for its Green Vehicle Guide.

Vehicles leased or procured by QFleet are required to meet the rating of 5.5 or better for passenger vehicles, and 3.5 or better for commercial vehicles on the Green Vehicle Guide. The only exceptions are vehicles with special requirements that have been approved by the relevant department's Chief Executive Officer.

As a result, projected greenhouse emissions savings of approximately 26 kilotonnes during the three-year implementation phase are expected. From 31 December 2010 the annual savings will be in the order of 12 kilotonnes per annum, which is equivalent to the emissions of 2,700 passenger vehicles, based on the industry average.

Additional reductions targets have also been set beyond 2010, namely 25% by the end of 2012 and 50% by the end of 2017.

The priority must be to reduce emissions, as they cannot be entirely eliminated. For this reason, QFleet has been offsetting a significant proportion of the fleet's emissions since 2002 by subscribing to the Greenfleet tree planting program. As at April 2008, more than 400,000 trees have been successfully established in tree-depleted areas of Queensland.

The ClimateSmart Action Plan has set the most challenging specific targets of any public sector fleet in Australia, and its initiatives and standards are already being mirrored in other jurisdictions.