

Question on Notice

No. 1412

Asked on Wednesday 7 October 2009

MS FARMER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT (MS NOLAN) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide details of the Vehicle Offsets Contribution Scheme, which she recently announced, including how and when it will be rolled out?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Bulimba for the question.

Queensland motorists are now able to 'balance' their vehicles' greenhouse gas emissions and help expand Queensland's protected bushland areas through the 'Reverse the Effect' program that I launched with the Climate Change and Sustainability Minister, Kate Jones during the Queensland Climate Change Summit at Parliament House on Wednesday, 4 November 2009.

The Queensland Government is getting on-board by matching dollar-for-dollar the voluntary contributions from Queenslanders up to \$4.5 million over the next five years. This means that if it costs \$118 to offset the emissions of a family sedan for one year, the government will match a motorist's voluntary contribution of \$59 with another \$59 to fully offset the vehicle.

The scheme is open to many types of vehicles: mopeds, motorbikes, small, medium and large cars, light commercial vehicles, trucks, and hybrid cars. They are all weighted differently to reflect the amount of carbon they emit each year so, with the State Government's contribution, a moped will only cost \$8 a year to offset while a light commercial-style van will cost \$120. The low-emission hybrid will cost just \$28.

Motorists are able to choose the period they want their donation to cover; for example six months or 12 months. Donation amounts will be based on average yearly kilometres travelled and average emissions per kilometre, using sources like the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Australian Government's Green Vehicle Guide.

These tax-deductible donations will be used to create native forests that capture carbon from the atmosphere and reduce the impact of emissions. By creating native forests we can also expand protected natural areas in Queensland that will minimise the effects of climate change and enhance the environment for the future.

With just a few clicks and using their credit cards, motorists will be able to offset online at: www.reversetheeffect.com.au

Transport generates more than 10 per cent of the State's total greenhouse gas emissions with road transport contributing 85 per cent of these or about 16 million tonnes of CO₂. In addition to offsetting their vehicle emissions, there are many other options for motorists to

reduce their emissions by better planning their trips to avoid those that are unnecessary or by walking, cycling or catching public transport to their destination.