

Question on Notice

No. 532

Asked on Wednesday 3 April 2019

MR S KNUTH ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the State Government's announcement of 16 initiatives to help shift Queensland to environmentally friendly electric vehicles and the Federal Labour's announcement to cap emissions in the industry—

Will the Minister advise if the State Government will consider implementing a subsidy to make electric cars affordable to Queenslanders?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Hill for the question.

In Queensland, electric vehicles currently attract the lowest rate of registration and registration duty. The current cost to register an electric vehicle—excluding compulsory third party insurance and traffic improvement fee—is \$252.70, compared to a four-cylinder passenger car at \$321.35, a \$68.65 saving for the customer.

In addition, electric vehicles attract the lowest rate of registration duty, with electric vehicles charged at two per cent compared to three per cent for a four-cylinder car. This registration duty is applicable to both new and second-hand vehicles and is a small, but meaningful, way to minimise the life-cycle cost of electric vehicle ownership.

The Palaszczuk Government launched Australia's first electric vehicle strategy, *The Future is Electric: Queensland Electric Vehicle Strategy*, and as one of the 16 actions, completed phase 1 of the Queensland Electric Super Highway (QESH). The QESH allows Queenslanders and tourists to travel from Coolangatta to Cairns and west from Brisbane to Toowoomba. Completed in January 2018, the QESH has been used more than 3000 times, demonstrating the demand and need for this infrastructure.

I am pleased to say that the Palaszczuk Government has committed a further \$2.5 million to build additional chargers along the QESH, giving Queenslanders and tourists more opportunities to stop, revive and recharge. However, to super charge the uptake of electric vehicles there needs to be a coordinated approach across Australia.

That is why, in November 2018 at the Transport and Infrastructure Council meeting, I championed the development of a national program to encourage the uptake of low and zero emission vehicles. All council members agreed that a low and zero emission transport future was in the national interest and that a program of work address the three key barriers impeding take up in Australia:

- infrastructure availability
- upfront purchase cost and model availability
- lack of public information.

I am happy to say that Queensland took on this challenge and is leading the development of this piece of work, which is scheduled for council consideration in mid-2019. Since this time, I am pleased to see Federal Labor's announcement to reduce transport emissions, which will support local industries in the electric vehicle value chain, such as Tritium, a Brisbane-based manufacturer of world leading electric vehicle charging technology. Any future programs to further encourage Queenslanders to switch to an electric vehicle will need to be carefully considered.

Change takes time and all levels of Australian governments must work together, but I am confident the Palaszczuk Government can put Australia on a pathway to a cleaner, greener and cheaper transport future.