

Question on Notice

No. 932

Asked on Tuesday 11 June 2019

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the progressive uptake of electric vehicles—

Will the Minister advise what specific studies have been undertaken and/or commissioned on the financial repercussions for the State Budget and requisite infrastructure expenditure?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Chatsworth for the question.

There is a growing shift away from combustion engines towards electric vehicles. The United Kingdom and France have already announced plans to phase out the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2040. Other countries, including Germany and China, have indicated they intend to follow a similar path.

In addition, major world cities such as Paris, Hamburg and New Delhi have introduced plans to reduce or eliminate the use of combustion engines, and vehicle manufacturers, including major producers such as Volkswagen, Volvo and BMW have announced plans to reduce reliance on combustion engines and increase the use of electric vehicle (EV) technology. In Australia, the National Roads and Motorists' Association has called for a ban on the sale of petrol and diesel cars by 2030.

The *Future is Electric – Queensland's Electric Vehicle Strategy* (the Strategy) was launched by the Palaszczuk Government on 4 October 2017. The Strategy aims to prepare and position Queensland for future uptake in EVs over the coming years.

TMR has developed a modelling tool to assist with an understanding of implications under different levels of EV uptake, and varying demographic scenarios. While this tool is useful in assessing what future scenarios might look like, its practical application is limited at present due to the unknown level of future EV uptake in Queensland, and the absence of clear national policy settings.

The Morrison LNP Government is spearheading the Land Transport Market Reform project which is investigating potential changes in the way road services are priced and funded in Australia, which might include road user charging.

In 2017–18, the Palaszczuk Government built the Queensland Electric Super Highway (QESH), the world's longest electric vehicle super highway in a single state. QESH allows Queenslanders and tourists driving EVs to travel from Coolangatta to Cairns, and Brisbane to Toowoomba. The sites are owned and operated by Yurika, part of the Energy Queensland Group. The charging stations have been used frequently since introduction, demonstrating the demand and need for this infrastructure.

The Palaszczuk Government has committed a further \$2.5 million under *Future Proofing the Bruce* to build additional sites reducing the distance between charging stations along QESH. Planning is currently underway to identify final locations, with implementation to be completed by mid-2020. The expenditure on QESH was intended to be catalytic in encouraging the uptake of EVs and providing a more attractive commercial proposition to private sector providers.

The Palaszczuk Government's ability to future-proof Queensland and get our state ready for technological change is dependent on our strong investment in roads and transport infrastructure and the fact we have kept Queensland's assets in public hands. In this year's State Budget, we announced another record four-year investment in roads and transport infrastructure with \$23 billion committed across Queensland. Not only does this investment help build the infrastructure our growing state needs, but it will sustain 21,500 jobs over the life of the program.

Our record of strong investment, job creation and public ownership of assets is very different to the approach of the former Newman LNP Government which cut \$600 million from roads and transport investment, sacked 14,000 workers from their jobs, and spent millions of dollars in taxpayers' money trying to sell off Queensland's assets.