

Question on Notice

No. 189

Asked on 10 March 2021

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the registration of vehicles in Queensland—

Will the Minister advise how many new electric vehicles were privately registered in Queensland in (a) 2017, (b) 2018, (c) 2019 and (d) 2020?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Chatsworth for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government has a target of zero net emissions by 2050, with an interim emissions reductions target of at least 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. As the transport sector contributes around 13 per cent of Queensland's total emissions—the second largest single emitter behind stationary energy—encouraging greater electric vehicle (EV) uptake is a key step to achieve these targets.

Our government released *The Future is Electric: Queensland's Electric Vehicle Strategy* (EV Strategy) in 2017, the first jurisdiction in Australia to introduce an EV strategy. Since the release of the EV Strategy, the Palaszczuk Government has made substantial progress to increase EV uptake, usage and supporting infrastructure across Queensland.

A key deliverable from the EV Strategy—the Queensland Electric Super Highway (QESH)—remains the world's longest electric highway in a single state, allowing EV motorists to easily recharge from Coolangatta to Port Douglas and from Brisbane to Toowoomba. In February 2021, QESH Phase 2 delivered a further 13 fast-charging stations to the network, meaning Queenslanders and tourists can recharge their EV at any of the 31 QESH sites across the state.

As well as helping EV motorists, the QESH was also built to act as a catalyst for private investment in similar infrastructure. Private investment in EV charging infrastructure is increasing, with companies rolling out destination, fast and ultra-fast charging stations across a range of Queensland locations

The table below provides how many EVs were privately registered in Queensland for each of the respective periods, as at 30 June for each year.

As at 30 June	Number of privately registered electric vehicles	Annual vehicle growth	Year on year % increase
2017	363	-	
2018	516	153	42%
2019	703	187	36%
2020	1709	1006	143%

Table 1: List of EVs that were privately registered as at 30 June.

Note: The above table is only a representation of the number of privately registered vehicles in Queensland, and not whether the vehicle was a new vehicle purchase.

Nationally, the Federal LNP Government has failed to provide incentives for new electric vehicles to enter the market. This is in comparison to countries like Norway, the United Kingdom, United State of America and China, which have created effective incentive mechanisms to promote the uptake of electric vehicles. This includes various schemes like cash rebates and discounts on certain charges. The inaction of the Federal LNP Government has forced the car industry to offer a limited range of electric vehicles models available to Australian consumers. I would strongly encourage the State LNP to engage with their federal counterparts to overcome barriers for electric vehicle uptake, which has left our nation behind compared to most comparable developed nations.

With EVs playing a key role across a range of sectors, the Palaszczuk Government will continue driving greater support for EV uptake. We remain committed to embracing innovative, new transport technologies and combining research and development to continue to build, strengthen and integrate Queensland's transport network.

As Minister for Transport and Main Roads, I have consistently advocated for greater EV uptake and national leadership. This includes presenting to the Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meetings in partnership with the Australian Capital Territory and opposing measures from southern states that will stymie EV take ups.

I note the Member has rarely made comment on EV policy and I urge the Member to take on greater leadership within the LNP on this important issue.