

Senate Select Committee on Electric Vehicles

Written Question on Notice

Question from Senator Storer to Toyota

Question No.	Asked by	Question
1.	Senator Tim Storer (Chair)	<p>The Toyota Australia website notes that 'by around 2025, every model in the Toyota and Lexus line-up around the world will be available as either a dedicated electrified model or have an electrified option'. See: https://www.toyota.com.au/main/news/toyota-accelerates-plans-for-electrified-vehicles.</p> <p>Could you please provide the committee with further information on Toyota's plans with respect to the Australian car market, given that a second media article from Drive.com.au is suggesting that an electric variant for each Toyota model 'won't be happening on local soil'?¹</p>

Answer:

Toyota's global announcement refers to electrification of four forms, hybrid, plug-in hybrid, fuel cell electric and battery electric. This mix of electrification will allow for vehicles to be fit for purpose and suitable for the conditions of the Australian market.

Toyota Australia has pioneered the use of hybrid electric vehicles in the Australian market for almost 20 years. The Toyota Prius hybrid vehicle went on sale locally in 2001. Since then, the hybrid offering has grown to more than five models including the new Camry and Corolla. In 2019, Toyota Australia will introduce a hybrid SUV into Australia, the first of its kind in the Toyota line-up and the first of five new hybrid models to be introduced locally in the next 30 months. Toyota Australia is also commencing trials of our fuel cell electric vehicle, the Mirai (which is currently on sale in Japan, Canada, US & UK).

Due to Australian market conditions, Toyota Australia's commercial vehicles have specific requirements for towing, strength & durability and off-road use requirements. Therefore, we will only introduce electrified powertrains across our commercial range when we are confident they will fit out guest's purpose and are suitable for Australian conditions.

1 See: <https://www.drive.com.au/motor-news/no-hybrid-hilux-but-plug-ins-on-the-cards-116828>.

A significant barrier to battery electric and fuel cell electric uptake continues to be the lack of infrastructure in Australia. Consumer buying behaviour is also a barrier to low and zero emission vehicle uptake with hybrids accounting for only 4% of the market regardless of being in the Australian market since 2001.

It is clear from Australian and overseas evidence that in the absence of strong monetary and/or non-monetary incentives, the substitution from petrol/diesel vehicles to alternatives such as hybrids, fuel cell and battery electrics will be gradual.