

Senate Select Committee on Electric Vehicles
Questions on Notice
Canberra public hearing (Friday 17 August 2018)

Questions from Hansard –Department of the Environment and Energy

Question No.	Asked by	Question
1.	Senator Patrick (pp 75–76)	<p style="text-align: center;">Senator PATRICK: I presume you somehow know who may have attended. On notice, for each of the departments, I ask that you provide to the committee the notebooks of officials that have attended insofar as there are notes relating to electric vehicles. Everyone's okay with that?</p> <p>Mr Foulds: We'll take it on notice, thank you.</p> <p>Mr Power: We'll take it on notice.</p>

Answer:

In response to your question, the Department has asked all current officials who attended meetings of the Ministerial Forum on Vehicle Emissions to review their existing notebooks for meeting notes relating to electric vehicles. The notes are provided below (without attributing comments from third parties).

Meeting of 4 April 2016

The then Minister for Resources, Energy and Northern Australia, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, addressed the stakeholder forum speaking about alternative fuelled vehicles, including electric vehicles (EVs). He talked about how costs were coming down and investments were being made in EV refuelling infrastructure. He asked whether the government should be more involved in helping uptake of these alternatively powered vehicles, including support for infrastructure and raising consumer awareness.

Comments from stakeholders were:

- EVs will remain niche vehicles in the short term due to infrastructure and range barriers, and most importantly costs. People who buy them already know all about them including what incentives are available overseas.
- EVs need an increase in awareness and a government stamp of approval. Would like a formal target for uptake. Government incentives don't have to be cash incentives.

- if conventional fuel prices stay low, until battery prices come down people won't move to EVs.
- until at least 2030 conventional engines will stay the main platform.
- Government could incentivise EVs through CO2 standards with super credits, and government fleet uptake. Also commented that there is a role for government in coordinating infrastructure roll out across multiple jurisdictions.
- caution against the government picking winners in new vehicle technologies.
- taxis were a good way to get new technologies out into society and that taxi operators were interested in EVs but that there were some government policies hampering investment in new technologies (example was the NSW government removing an age limit requirement on taxis).
- no measures for EVs can be divorced from the electricity market reform processes.