

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

2015 - 2016

Department/Agency: TREASURY
Question: AET 3297
Topic: Ministerial Motor Vehicle
Reference: written - 19 February 2016
Senator: Ludwig, Joe/Wong. Penny

Question:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

3297. Has the minister been provided with or had access to a motor vehicle? If so:

- a) What is the make and model?
- b) How much did it cost?
- c) When was it provided?
- d) Was the entire cost met by the department? If not, how was the cost met?
- e) What, if any, have been the ongoing costs associated with this motor vehicle? Please include costs such as maintenance and fuel.
- f) Are these costs met by the department? If not, how are these costs met?
- g) Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine if a minister is entitled to a motor vehicle.
- h) Have these guidelines changed during the specified period of time? If so, please detail.
- i) Please provide a copy of the guidelines that determine how a minister is to use a motor vehicle they have been provided with. Please include details such as whether the motor vehicle can be used for personal uses.
- j) Have these guidelines changed during the specified period of time? If so, please detail.

Answer:

3297. Ministers have been provided with or have access to two vehicles.

- a) Ford Territory; and
Holden Cruze.
- b) Both vehicles are leased and costs are ongoing and paid monthly.
- c) Ford Territory – 3 August 2015
Holden Cruze – 17 September 2013
- d) The cost for both vehicles was met by the department.
- e) The ongoing costs for both vehicles are: Lease, Insurance, Maintenance, Fuel and Other.
- f) The department covers all the costs associated with the leased vehicles.

- g) This information is available in The Department of Finance and Deregulation Ministers of State Entitlements, Section 4.4.4:
“A Minister may elect to be provided with a Private-Plated Vehicle (PPV) based in Canberra in lieu of COMCAR services. The cost of fuel, maintenance, insurance and registration is met by the Minister’s portfolio department.”
- h) The guidelines have not changed during the specified period of time.
- i) This information is available in The Department of Finance and Deregulation Ministers of State Entitlements, Section 4.4.4:

“Conditions of use are as follows:

- as the vehicle is provided in lieu of COMCAR in Canberra, it is expected that a Minister will only require the use of COMCAR directly to and from the Canberra Airport;
- the vehicle may be used for travel between Canberra and the Minister’s electorate or principal place of residence;
- the vehicle may be used for travel outside of Canberra; and
- the vehicle may be used for Parliamentary and official Ministerial purposes, including for these purposes by the Minister’s employees.

A Minister may choose to use the Canberra PPV for private purposes, but not commercial purposes, that is, on the same basis as the PPV provided in the electorate. A Minister who selects a PPV is no longer required to make a personal contribution towards the costs of the vehicle.

Vehicles are supplied by the whole-of-government Fleet Provider and are covered by the same insurance arrangements that apply to all Senators and Members’ PPVs. The portfolio department is responsible for replacing the Canberra PPV at the end of its lease.”

- j) The guidelines have not changed during the specified period of time.