

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing
26 February 2009

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Government Car Procurement Policies

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Abetz

QUESTION No.: AI-35

In reference to answer 1182, part 7, the Minister disagreed that the procurement policies of the Tasmanian and Queensland Governments were inherently biased against Australian made cars.

What do the Australian manufacturers think of the policies of these two states?

How aren't the policies of Tasmania and Queensland biased against Australian made cars?

Does the Minister think that Tas/Qld should change their policies? If not, why not?

Is the Minister happy for State Governments to use the Green Vehicle Guide website as a reference for their procurement policies?

ANSWER

This question should be directed to the Australian car manufacturers.

The Government is aware that State and Territory governments, including the Tasmanian and Queensland governments, have set targets to increase the proportion of environmentally friendly vehicles in their fleets over time. This does not imply that their procurement policies are inherently biased against Australian made cars. The Government anticipates the next generation of Australian vehicles supported under the Green Car Innovation Fund, specifically the hybrid Toyota Camry and GM Holden's new small car, will feature prominently in future State and Territory government fleets.

No. The Government encourages State and Territory governments to support Australian car manufacturers in their fleet purchasing policies, but does not presume to direct them on the content of their fleet purchasing policies.

The Green Vehicle Guide provides objective, model-specific information on the environmental performance of vehicles to assist consumers, whether private, government or business, in their purchasing decisions. As such, the Government encourages the appropriate use of information provided on the Green Vehicle Guide website as a reference for vehicle purchasing decisions by all interested parties, including State and Territory governments.