

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: Fuel Efficiency

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard 26 February 2009, E92)

QUESTION No.: AI-43

Senator ABETZ—...I would like to move on the supplementary estimates answer SI40. You can take this on notice, look at it and see if it is correct, because I suggest the voluntary agreement relating to grams of carbon dioxide emitted is not litres per 100 kilometres but in fact measured in grams, and it is 222. Not much rides on it, but I just want to make sure that, if I use that information, it is actually correct. I would also like you to take on notice whether the government has a target of 20 per cent improved fuel efficiency by 2010, as outlined in the *Australian* newspaper on 16 June 2008.

Mr Paterson—We will take that on notice.

ANSWER

The Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries' (FCAI) voluntary National Average Fuel Consumption (NAFC) target of 6.8 L/100km by 2010 was endorsed in 2003 by the then Federal Government. The target represented an 18 per cent improvement in the fuel efficiency of new petrol-engined passenger cars by 2010. The FCAI also undertook to develop a greenhouse gas emissions target which would include other categories of light vehicles and fuel types.

The FCAI in 2005 adopted a National Average Carbon Emissions (NACE) target for all new light vehicles of 222g/km by 2010. The Government did not endorse this carbon emission target.

The Government understands that the FCAI's voluntary 6.8L/100km NAFC target has effectively been superseded, as the technical methodology used to measure vehicle fuel consumption has changed.

The Government does not have a formal target of 20 per cent improved fuel efficiency by 2010. However, Minister Carr expects the introduction of new technologies to Australian vehicle manufacturing by 2010 would lead to up to 20 per cent improvement in fuel consumption of Australian made vehicles. The Government is encouraging the Australian automotive industry to improve its fuel efficiency through *A New Car Plan for a Greener Future*.