

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2012-13
13 February 2013

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Electric Cars

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Bushby

QUESTION No.: AI-158

1. Did the business case compiled by the EV Engineering consortium as part of their application for a Green Car Innovation Fund grant include any forecasts about the percentage of electric cars it believed would be on Australian roads by a particular date or dates? If so, what were those forecasts?
2. Are there any other electric car related businesses or projects to which the Rudd and/or Gillard governments have provided any form of support? If so, which ones and what has been the extent of that support?

ANSWER

1. No.
2. Support provided by the department is listed at **Attachment A**.

In addition to this support, the Automotive Competitiveness and Investment Scheme and Automotive Transformation Scheme provide assistance for allowable production and investment in plant and equipment and research and development (R&D) which may be accessed by individual participants in respect of electric vehicle-related projects. The R&D Tax Incentive and its predecessor, the R&D Tax Concession, allow for tax deductions of qualifying expenditure incurred on R&D activities which may be accessed by Australian companies in respect of electric vehicle-related projects. These programs are subject to confidentiality provisions.

Support provided to other electric car related businesses or projects*

Company	Program	Project Description	Amount (GST exclusive)
Auto 2020 CRC (active)	Cooperative Research Centres Program	To deliver smarter, safer, cleaner manufacturing and vehicle technologies. The CRC will build human capital in areas of vehicle electrification, gaseous fuels and production of greener vehicles and components.	\$64.7 million
Blade Electric Technology Pty Ltd	Commercialising Emerging Technologies (COMET) Program	A rechargeable battery electric retro fit conversion kit for Hyundai Getz and Toyota Yaris.	\$120,000
Blade Electric Vehicles Pty Ltd	Enterprise Connect	Manufacture of Battery Electric Vehicle design and production. Research and development of electrical and computer systems to manage cells, power, telemetry and interpolation across smart grid.	\$29,500
CAST CRC	Cooperative Research Centres Program	Aluminium casting technologies developed with Nissan Casting Australia for the Nissan Leaf. CAST CRC worked with the Australian metal manufacturing sector to create business opportunities and improve processes.	\$33.5 million
CRC for Advanced Automotive Technology	Cooperative Research Centres Program	To deliver smarter, safer, cleaner manufacturing and vehicle technologies. The CRC worked on concept ready hybrid and electric powertrain technology.	\$38.7 million
Nissan Casting Australia Pty Ltd	Green Car Innovation Fund	Tooling up for a sustainable future in electric vehicle components production.	\$3,348,250
Toyota Motor Corporation Australia Ltd	Green Car Innovation Fund	Production of the hybrid Camry in Australia.	\$35 million

Company	Program	Project Description	Amount (GST exclusive)
Toyota Motor Corporation Australia Ltd	Green Car Innovation Fund	Global Engine Line – development of next generation 4 cylinder engine plant for the production of hybrid and petrol engines.	\$63 million
Tritium Pty Ltd	Commercialisation Australia	Advanced rapid charging for electric vehicles.	\$1.15 million
Ultramotive Technologies Pty Ltd	Commercialising Emerging Technologies (COMET) Program	High torque electric in-wheel motor technology.	\$40,000
Very Small Particle Company Ltd	Green Car Innovation Fund	Development of nano-scale lithium iron phosphate for use in the next generation of batteries for electric vehicles.	\$2,488,979

* Data generated through a text based search of project descriptions.

Information is publicly available at:

Green Car Innovation Fund: www.ausindustry.gov.au/programs/manufacturing/gcif

COMET: www.ausindustry.gov.au/programs/innovation-rd/comet

Commercialisation Australia: www.commercialisationaustralia.gov.au/OurParticipants

Cooperative Research Centres Program: www.crc.gov.au/HTMLDocuments/Documents/PDF/CRC%20directory_web%20version%20291111.pdf