

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing – October 2006

Question: F67

Outcome 2 - Improved and More Efficient Government Operations,

Output 2.1.1 – Government Business Enterprises Ownership and Divestment

Topic: Vehicle Safety Arrangements in the Government fleet

Written Question on Notice

Senator O'Brien asked:

With reference to the Department of Finance and Administration fleet purchasing and leasing policy:

1. Is the Department aware of a 'high impact action' identified in the Australian Transport Council's *National Road Safety Plan 2007 and 2008* being:

Governments to implement vehicle fleet purchasing policies that have high regard to vehicle safety standards for both occupants and pedestrians, and that promote uptake in the general fleet of effective advanced safety features such as Electronic Stability Control.

2. Has the Department been approached by the Minister for Transport and Regional Services or the Minister for Roads regarding the implementation of this 'high impact action'?
 - a. If yes, what actions has the Department implemented to meet this 'high impact action'?
3. Does the Department specify any active or passive safety features when selecting vehicles to be included on the List of Eligible General Fleet (Passenger) Vehicles?
 - a. If yes, please detail.
 - b. If no, does the Department have plans to specify any of these features?
4. Is consideration given by the Department to the Australian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP) ratings when selecting vehicles to be included on the List of Eligible General Fleet (Passenger) Vehicles?
 - a. If yes, please detail.
 - b. If not, why not?

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5. Has the Department developed a model vehicle procurement and fleet management policy for use within all Commonwealth departments and agencies?
 - a. If yes, can you provide a copy of this?
 - b. If no, does the Department have plans to develop a model vehicle procurement and fleet management plan?
 - i. If not, why not?
6. Has the Department consulted with the Commonwealth Department with the primary responsibility for road and vehicle safety, the Department of Transport and Regional Services regarding road and vehicle safety issues?
 - a. If yes, can you provide details of any consultations?
 - b. If no, why not?

Answer:

1. Yes.
2. Yes.
 - a. The Fleet Monitoring Body (FMB), a business unit in the Department of Finance and Administration (Finance), in consultation with the Department of Transport and Regional Services (DoTARS), is considering opportunities to promote additional safety features across the Government's vehicle fleet.
3. The FMB provides guidance to departments and agencies on a range of vehicle safety and driver safety issues. This information is contained on the FMB's website and covers the following areas:
 - Accident Statistics and Facts;
 - Tips for Safer Driving;
 - Awareness of Driving Hazards;
 - Safe Driving and Mobile Phones; and
 - Maintaining a Safe Vehicle.

The Government's fleet manager LeasePlan Australia Limited also provides similar guidance.

- a. Refer above.
- b. Not applicable.

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4. No.
 - a. Not applicable.
 - b. All vehicles are required to meet the Australian Design Rules, which set minimum standards for safety and emissions performance.
5. Yes. The FMB provides guidance to departments and agencies on a range of vehicle procurement, vehicle safety and driver safety issues. This information is contained on the FMB's website and covers the following areas:
 - Eligible General Fleet Vehicle Selection Policy;
 - Accident Statistics and Facts;
 - Tips for Safer Driving;
 - Awareness of Driving Hazards;
 - Safe Driving and Mobile Phones; and
 - Maintaining a Safe Vehicle.

The Government's fleet manager, LeasePlan Australia Limited, also provides similar guidance.

- a. This information is available on the FMB's website www.finance.gov.au/fleetmonitoringbody. Please find attached a copy for your convenience.
 - b. Not applicable.
6. Yes.
 - a. The FMB has regular dialogue with DoTARS on matters relating to vehicle and driver safety. On 31 May 2006, Finance officials met with representatives of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau to discuss issues surrounding the National Road Safety Action Plan and safety arrangements in the Government vehicle fleet. On 2 August 2006, Finance officials met with an official from the Road Safety Standards Branch to discuss a range of issues including safety features in Government fleet vehicles. In addition to the meetings, the FMB and DoTARS are in regular telephone and email contact.
 - b. Not applicable.