



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Peter Garrett MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

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GARRETT DRIVES HOME THE MESSAGE

Members of Parliament will be shuttled around Canberra during Budget week in hybrid vehicles under an initiative to trial environmentally friendly vehicles for the Commonwealth fleet.

Announcing the initiative today, Environment Minister Peter Garrett said the Government was committed to leading by example in our response to climate change.

“We will be trialing the Toyota Prius as the parliamentary shuttle during the week of the Federal Budget and ensuing sitting weeks to evaluate integration of the car into the fleet,” Mr Garrett said.

The two environmentally friendly vehicles will be on loan from the Toyota Motor Corporation of Australia from 12 May until 2 June for evaluation by MPs and Senators.

“The Prius is one of the world’s most environmentally friendly cars, theoretically capable of getting from Sydney to Brisbane on one tank of petrol,” Mr Garrett said.

Mr Garrett said the Government’s \$500 million Green Car Innovation Fund will be used to help local manufacturers develop cleaner and greener vehicles, components and technologies.

“This fund will help ensure Australia plays a leading role in the global development of green car technology.”

In March this year, the Rudd Labor Government also announced a whole-of-government taskforce on how best to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, waste, energy and water use in government operations.

“The Government recognises the need for investment in more efficient technologies that cut Australia’s greenhouse gas emissions and help us live more sustainably,” Mr Garrett said.

“For too long the previous government sat on its hands when it came to dealing with climate change and reducing the impacts of its own operations on the environment.

“The Rudd Labor Government is acting to reduce its emissions and improve its environmental performance. Steps like improving the performance of the government fleet is one of many areas being addressed by the Interdepartmental Committee on Government Leadership in Sustainability, which will report to the Prime Minister next month.”