



PO Box 659
Main Beach
Queensland 4217
Ph: 0419665766
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LEE LOU PTY LTD
ABN: 70496 433 226

The Australian Government -The Treasury

Re: Pre Budget Submission,

Thank you to The Hon Karen Andrews MP for notifying me of the opportunity to submit a prebudget submission online. My comments are in regard to Climate Change.

Firstly lets agree the World and Australia's climate needs cleaning up. We don't need to agree to the label of "climate change" just that our local environment is polluted and needs good government policies to clean it. Perhaps if the Liberal Party could make this type of unanimous statement or something similar then we could move forward with caring for our environment and have confidence that the liberal party is going to govern Australia to a better environment.

We need industry, and electrical prices rising constrain our industry so I am in agreement with the Governments policies to keep electricity affordable. A better way to attack our polluted environment is via the polluting cars. Perhaps all the reduction we need in emissions could be achieved by changing what we drive. Has this calculation ever been done?

I had no intention of buying an E-Hybrid car as I did not understand them and many articles I read were very misinformed. Due to government incentives we have solar power at home. Due to the dealer wanting to move on an old stocker car, as other purchasers were also cautious, I bought an E-hybrid car and researched my way into understanding this is the future of vehicles. An E-Hybrid means I plug it in and get 25 kms on battery and then the car switches to petrol when needed. The petrol engine then re charges the battery. I drive most of the day pollution free. I have reduced by household emissions and if need be, I charge at night when power stations have a surplus of power. I haven't sent my disposable income spent on fuel back to Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile industry is still using power at an affordable price while emissions have been reduced. The problem is, as with most early stage technologies, price. A fabulous plan of incentives to get Australians into hybrid, e-hybrid or electric vehicles at affordable prices and the effect it would have on reducing our emissions should be a priority of the budget. Some of my ideas are:

1. All new government vehicles be a type of electric vehicle wherever possible. The government should be the leader in this technology, which will give the public the confidence to also switch from their traditional vehicles. A calculation could be made on the effect on our emissions. The cost to the government would be minimal as it is only a change of type vehicle.
2. Sales tax and luxury car tax should be lowered on electric type vehicles so that the purchase price is similar to a like petrol vehicle. As the electric vehicles become more affordable the tax can be reimposed.
3. Industries that support the manufacture of the electric vehicle should be offered government incentives to become part of what is the biggest change to car manufacturing since the invention of the car.

Kind regards
Leeanne Cowley