



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Health

In relation to: Health emissions and Electric vehicles

Hearing: 11 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 25-26

Transcript provided: 14 November 2025

Answer Due: 21 November 2025

MS CASTLEY: Yes. I am just wondering about the electric vehicles and why we do not have more of them. We have still got 13 internal combustion vehicles, and the fuel bill looks to have skyrocketed.

Ms Bladin: I will have to take the exact details on notice, but I do know that they run petrol vehicles at the farm, at the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm, so that would explain a portion of it, but I will take exact numbers on notice.

MS CASTLEY: And could you provide, on notice if necessary, the breakdown of the number of kilometres of each vehicle and their category type that has done over the last two years?

Ms Bladin: Yes.

MS CASTLEY: And also just interested in are there enough charging ports for the existing vehicles that do need to be charged? So I believe there is some plug-in hybrids, and are they able to be charged, or are they just running them as petrol vehicles?

Ms Bladin: I will take all of those ones on notice, if that is okay.

RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSD) has been progressively introducing zero emission vehicles into its fleet, in line with the ACT Government's Zero Emissions Vehicles Strategy 2022-30. In keeping with this strategy, when a vehicle has reached the end of its lease, HCSD assesses whether there is a suitable EV replacement available. In cases of passenger vehicles used for day-to-day driving around suburban Canberra, zero emission vehicles have been leased.

The 13 non-electric vehicles in the HCSD fleet are utility vehicles (utes) and vans, which consist of the following:

- two vans based at the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm (NBHF), which are used to transport clients to and from the site;
- one ute is based at the NBHF for land care and farm-related activities, including bushfire season preparation;
- one ute is based at Bowes Street, Phillip, for carrying out patrols and security activities; and
- nine utes are used by the Health Protection Services (Howard Florey House, Holder).

Below is the breakdown on kilometres (kms) for each of these vehicles over the last two financial years (2023-24 and 2024-25):

Vehicle Registration	Vehicle Category	Site	Kms 2023-24	Kms 2024-25
216425	Diesel	NBHF	48.20	399.30
217092	Diesel	Holder	9,404.79	9,074.50
217226	Diesel	Bowes Street	51,600.10	46,288.40
217241	Diesel	Holder	2,026.20	11,022.80
217373	Diesel	Holder	12,327.30	12,039.50
217572	Diesel	Holder	11,552.20	11,179.00
217573	Diesel	Holder	10,363.10	11,964.60
217574	Diesel	Holder	10,847.70	8,632.00
217914	Diesel	Holder	3,531.50	12,693.30
218306	Diesel	Holder	9,744.10	11,504.00
218976	Diesel	Holder	2,624.00	11,342.70

OFFICIAL

Vehicle Registration	Vehicle Category	Site	Kms 2023-24	Kms 2024-25
YOD81M	Diesel	NBHF	20,401.90	20,542.70
YQA19H	Diesel	NBHF	21,462.90	30,367.40

HCSD also has one plug-in hybrid electric vehicle in its fleet. This vehicle uses petrol:

Vehicle Registration	Vehicle Category	Site	Kms 2023-24	Kms 2024-25
209096	Plug-in hybrid electric/ petrol	Holder	6496.5	9196.0

The distances travelled by each vehicle is dependent on the operational requirements of the various teams in HCSD that use fleet vehicles.

The reason for HCSD still retaining internal combustion engine vehicles is because there have yet to be suitable zero emission replacements for these vehicles. When such vehicles reach the end of their lease, HCSD assesses whether there are suitable zero emission replacements. Currently there are no zero emission vans suitable for use at the NBHF. When the current leases on existing diesel utes ends, HCSD will assess whether the zero emission utes that are now on the Australian market will be suitable.

In addition, it is an operational requirement for Health Protection Services staff to be able to start and end their workday in the field, therefore Health Protection Services vehicles are garaged at the home of staff members. Options are being explored to trial an electric or hybrid ute during 2026 when leases on existing vehicles end.

HCSD has sufficient electric vehicle charging ports. HCSD has four electric vehicles based at Bowes Street with four electric vehicle chargers at that location; and eight electric vehicles based at Howard Florey House with ten chargers at that location.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:



By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

Date:

20/11/25