

Keeping you informed about progress at QFleet and in the motor industry

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My Next Car drives online

QFleet launched a new online vehicle finder service this month to offer a quick and convenient way for the public to access information about QFleet vehicles coming up for auction.

QFleet Deputy General Manager Bruce Grady said *My Next Car* would provide a valuable information service for potential car buyers.

"People looking for a car can visit www.mynextcar.qld.gov.au and search for their desired vehicle features.

"It's no longer necessary to race around on Saturday mornings, newspaper in hand, searching for a vehicle to suit your needs."

QFleet worked closely with RACQ to develop the service. RACQ Product Manager Andrew Millward said information on club services was accessible through *My Next Car*.

"Visitors to the site can apply for RACQ membership online or obtain an estimate for comprehensive car insurance," he said.

"Anyone seeking finance to buy a car can even apply for a loan online. They can receive pre-approval for the loan before they attend the auction, provided they meet the necessary criteria."

"This means car buyers can bid for the car of their choice safe in the knowledge that their finance is in place."

Bruce said QFleet's relationship with RACQ was an important part of QFleet's strategy to deliver excellent client service.

"Our relationship with RACQ enables us to provide an even more comprehensive service for potential car buyers," he said.

"QFleet cars are sold in excellent condition and most come with a statutory warranty and balance of new vehicle warranty.

"All vehicles are sold with a Queensland Transport Safety Certificate."

For more information on *My Next Car* visit www.mynextcar.qld.gov.au or call 1800 QFLEET (1800 735 338).



QFleet's Deputy General Manager, Bruce Grady (left) and RACQ Product Manager Andrew Millward test out the features of *My Next Car*.

"Within seconds the service will provide a list of matching QFleet vehicles coming up for sale, including auction dates and location details," Bruce said.

"The beauty of *My Next Car* is it enables car buyers to search for vehicles at any time.



QFleet
Queensland Government
Queensland Services Group
Department of Public Works



A message from the Group General Manager

With the start of a new year it is time to set new goals. One of the things I would like to see is a reduction in our road toll. Although improvements in road safety and vehicle manufacturing are valuable, it all becomes meaningless if drivers take unnecessary risks.

Even though Australia has some of the safest roads in the world, the road fatality and injury statistics from Queensland Transport show that Queensland still had 324 fatalities and 5,308 hospitalisations in 2001. In 2002, preliminary statistics show there were 321 fatalities and 4,612 hospitalisations. As of late January there were already 15 fatalities this year.

Although we have seen a slight decrease in fatalities and injuries over the past few years, it is still tragic that so many lives have been lost or ruined. Some of the most disastrous crashes have resulted from simple distractions such as changing the radio station.

I urge you all to stop and think. Have you ever missed a red light or stop sign because you were distracted or simply not concentrating? Do you have a tendency to drive over the speed limit or drive after a few drinks? The mistake we all tend to make is thinking "It will never happen to me!" The sad reality is that all of the victims of road crashes probably thought the same thing.

Driving is a complex task and one that deserves our full attention. Some basic guidelines to ensure you survive the drive include:

- Do not exceed the speed limit. Speeding puts yourself and other innocent people at risk of injury or death. It's simply not worth it.
- Buckle up. Your chances of surviving on impact are much greater if you are wearing a seatbelt. No seatbelt - no chance.
- Avoid driving tired. If you are embarking on a long journey make sure you have a break every two hours. Fatigue is a hidden killer and often drivers do not survive the impact when crashing due to fatigue.
- Do not drink and drive. As with speeding, you are increasing the risk of killing or injuring yourself and others.
- Maintain your car regularly. This will ensure that you don't encounter any mechanical failure which could lead to a crash.
- Concentrate and keep an eye out for hazards. Identifying hazards before entering them can help reduce the risk of being involved in a crash.

By following these basic guidelines you can reduce the risk of becoming involved in an accident and help make 2003 a safer year for driving.

Save time and click online

For the environmentally conscious or for those who just prefer to read onscreen, *Journey* is available online as a PDF document.

Simply visit www.qfleet.qld.gov.au, enter the 'About us' section and click onto 'Latest news'.

You will have direct access to current and past editions and can download the information immediately.

Alternatively, if you'd like an electronic version of *Journey* emailed to you please contact the editor on 3224 4722.

Contacting QFleet

QFleet Head Office

Level 5 295 Ann Street
Brisbane
GPO Box 293
Brisbane Queensland 4001
Telephone 07 3224 4292
Facsimile 07 3224 6242

Senior Fleet Consultant

Felicity Hawthorne
Telephone 07 3224 5162
felicity.hawthorne@qfleet.qld.gov.au

Fleet Teams

Perry Landamore **Fleet Consultant**
Telephone 07 3225 8114
Facsimile 07 3227 8216
perry.landamore@qfleet.qld.gov.au
Leah Cummings **Fleet Administrator**
Telephone 07 3225 8584
Facsimile 07 3227 8216
leah.cummings@qfleet.qld.gov.au

Gail Kellie **Invoice Enquiries**
Telephone 07 3224 4071
gail.kellie@qfleet.qld.gov.au

How does it work?

Electronic Fuel Injection

An increasing emphasis on efficiency and environmentally friendly technology has lead vehicle manufacturers to introduce alternative engine control systems.

In recent years motor vehicle manufacturers stopped fitting petrol engines with carburettors and now fit electronic fuel injection (EFI) to meet increasingly stringent exhaust emission legislation.

EFI achieves greater efficiency by better managing the ratio of air and fuel being consumed by the engine. It closely monitors physical conditions inside and outside the engine to provide the best power with the least emissions.

EFI is controlled by a computerised engine control unit (ECU) which analyses data received from sensors and components. The data is then analysed from a range of car sensors to calculate the fuel requirements.

This data is systematically assessed and compared with look up tables (algorithms) stored in the computers software. These tables and other formulae are used to

calculate the engine's fuel requirements at any given second.

The information is then converted into electronic pulses which power the fuel injector. The amount of fuel delivered to the engine by the injector is determined by the power and duration of these electronic pulses.

When the engine is required to produce more power (acceleration) the injector pulses are longer, ensuring more fuel is delivered. When little power is needed (idling) the pulses are much shorter.

The main advantages of EFI to motorists are:

- more power and torque
- improved throttle response
- better fuel economy
- lower exhaust emissions, and
- improved engine life

As the manufacturing of EFI vehicles increases, we should see a decrease in the pollution emitted by vehicles worldwide.

News from Fleet Services

Range of lease vehicle changes

QFleet has recently made changes to the range of vehicles available for lease. Some vehicles have been replaced by newer models or are no longer available for lease. Following is a list of changes that have occurred:

Toyota

- The Toyota Landcruiser 100 series wagon (RV model) is no longer produced.
- The Toyota Landcruiser STD model is available in diesel only. The six cylinder petrol version is no longer available. The 4.7L V8 petrol is only available on the GXL and Sahara models.

- The Hilux four cylinder (petrol-run) is only available in the 4x2 model (the 4x4 comes with a 3.4L V6).
- The Toyota Camry is available in sedan only (the wagon is no longer produced).

Ford

- The BA Fairmont is available in sedan only (the wagon is no longer produced).
- The Ford Laser is no longer produced and has been replaced by the Focus.

The service centre

Tyre care and selection

Tyres are one of the most important features of a motor vehicle, but usually one of the most neglected. Considering the tyres on your car are your only connection with the road, they are the vital link for steering, braking, ride quality, acceleration, cornering, road noise and fuel consumption. Since tyres operate in all weather and road conditions, they really deserve more attention.

Tyre care is the responsibility of drivers because of extended servicing intervals. Tyres are porous and it is unrealistic to expect tyre pressure to hold for thousands of kilometres between services.

Tyres are complex in their construction. The average passenger car tyre consists of:

- 2.5 kg of 30 different types of synthetic rubber
- 2 kg of 8 types of natural rubber
- 2.2 kg of 8 types of carbon black
- 0.6 kg of steel cord
- 0.5 kg of polyester and nylon
- 0.25 kg of steel bead wire
- 1.25 kg of 40 different chemicals, oils, waxes and pigments

To get the best performance and safety out of your tyres you should:

- Always ensure tyres are inflated to the correct pressure. Inflation pressure information can be found on decals on either the door pillars, under the bonnet, within the Operator's Handbook or inside the glove box or fuel filler lid. Tyre pressure recommendations are 'cold inflation' pressure, so make sure you check the pressure when the tyre is cold. Spare tyres should also be checked regularly.

- Ensure your car's tyres are correctly balanced. A wheel and tyre just a few grams out of balance can create a pounding force of several kilograms because of the effect of centrifugal force. Vibration felt through the steering wheel is likely to be caused by a wheel and tyre balance problem.
- If your tyres appear to have abnormal wear on one edge then they may need a wheel alignment. Tyre specialists can perform rebalancing tasks and correct wheel alignment problems.
- Have tyres checked by a tyre specialist if they show evidence of cuts, bulges or any irregular wear.

Importantly, if any vibration or other performance is not fixed by attention to pressure, balancing or wheel alignment, report it to your QFleet repairer or to QFleet to ensure there it not a more serious problem.

Taking the time to look after your tyres will not only give you a better grip on the roads but a better grip on your life!



Regular tyre pressure checks will ensure you get the best performance and safety from your tyres.

Bits 'n' bytes

How safe is your car?

Want to know how safe your car is?

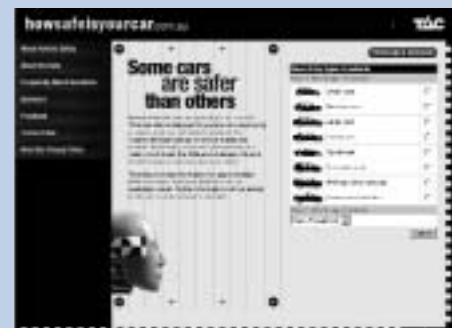
Visit www.howsafeisyourcar.com.au to compare the 'crashworthiness' ratings of different vehicle makes and models. Crashworthiness is based on car's protective features, such as how the vehicle is constructed and safety features such as seatbelts, airbags and crumple zones.

This site uses two separate rating systems – the Australian New Car

Assessment Program ratings (ANCAP) and the Used Car Safety Ratings.

Both rating systems help you make an informed decision about purchasing a safer vehicle.

This site contains information for approximately 80% of vehicles built for Australian roads since 1990. If you'd like a comprehensive rating of your vehicle's safety features we recommend you visit this site.



This site proves useful in helping you purchase a safe vehicle.

Contacting QFleet

Senior Account Managers

1800 668 283

Maintenance Controllers

1800 061 819

QFleet Workshop

72 Pineapple Street
Zillmere
Telephone 07 3406 6900
Facsimile 07 3406 6946

Vehicle Hire Service

80 George Street
Brisbane
Telephone 07 3224 4180
Facsimile 07 3224 4012

South Brisbane Service Centre

131 Colchester Street
South Brisbane
Telephone 07 3405 6857
Facsimile 07 3405 6858

Road safety review

Australia rates highly when it comes to road safety

New research shows that Australian roads are among the safest in the world according to the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB).

In a recent ATSB report, the road safety performances of 27 OECD* nations were compared. Australia had one of the lowest fatality rates with 1.5 fatalities per 10,000 registered vehicles. Norway recorded the lowest rate with 1 fatality per 10,000 registered vehicles while Korea recorded the highest rate with 7.8 fatalities per 10,000 registered vehicles.

The report also found that Australia's road fatality rates in 2000 were below the corresponding OECD median rates. In 2000, Australia had:

- the 11th lowest fatality rate in terms of fatalities per 100,000 population
- the 8th lowest rate in terms of fatalities per 10,000 registered vehicles
- the 4th lowest rate in terms of fatalities per 100 million vehicle kilometres travelled.

Over the past 25 years the Australian road fatality rate has reduced significantly – from 5.9 in 1975 to 1.5 in 2000. This reduction corresponds with the increase in road safety campaigns and initiatives such as seat belt enforcement and harsher penalties for traffic offences.

Although our roads are considered to be among the safest in the world, we cannot become complacent. If we are to achieve a 40% reduction in road fatalities by 2010 (a target set by the Australian Transport Council), we must realise that road safety is the responsibility of everyone in the community.

To view the full report visit the ATSB's website at www.atsb.gov.au/road/stats

N.B The report used figures from the International Road Traffic Accident Database, Australian Bureau of Statistics and the ATSB to compare road fatality rates for 27 OECD member nations. The comparison is based on the number of fatalities per registered vehicles in 2000.*

** OECD stands for Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development*

Vehicle market forces

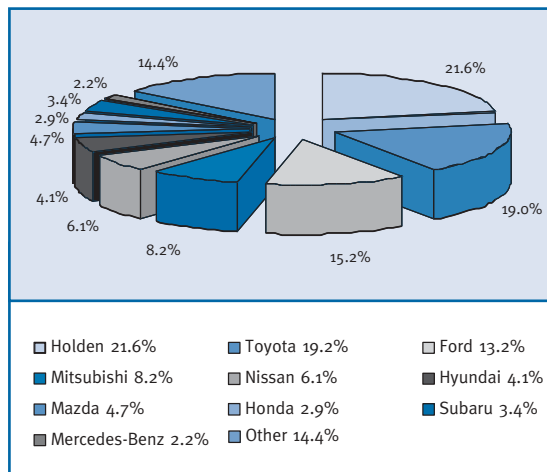
December 2002 overall market

The December 2002 market is down 1.5% when compared with December 2001. December 2002 had the same number of selling days as December 2001. This equates to a reduction of 44.1 vehicles per day.

December 2002 market segments

The Passenger Vehicle Market fell by 6.0% over the same month last year. The Light Truck Market increased by 7.9% and the Heavy Commercial Vehicle Market increased by 18.2% over December 2001.

Toyota was market leader in December, followed by Holden and Ford. Market leadership for full year 2002 went to Holden with a volume of 178,392 and a share of 21.6%.



This information is sourced from VFacts – the vehicle industry summary report released monthly by the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries.

Vehicle profile

Ford Focus LX

The Ford Focus LX is a small to medium sized passenger vehicle available as a four-door sedan or five-door hatch. The LX is available as a 1.8 litre 5-speed manual or a 2.0 litre 4-speed automatic.

The Ford Focus Ghia is also available to lease through QFleet.

For further information on the Focus Ghia please contact your Fleet Consultant.

Seats	5
Doors	5-door hatch, 4-door sedan, 3-door hatch
Sound system	CD player with steering column-mounted audio controls
Air conditioning	Standard
Power steering	Standard
Transmission	Manual or automatic
Airbags	Dual airbags standard
Cruise control	Standard on Ghia model
Brakes	ABS with rear disc brakes and Electronic Brake Force Distribution (EBFD)
Engine	1.8 litre manual or 2.0 litre automatic
Power	85kW @ 5500 rpm manual and automatic
Torque	156Nm @ 4400 rpm
Average fuel use city cycle (per 100km)	8.0 litres (manual) 9.0 litres (automatic)
Average fuel use highway cycle (per 100km)	5.2 litres (manual) 6.0 litres (automatic)



The Ford Focus has all the style with extra comfort and safety.

Practice makes perfect

Clients who have purchased *Think Safe Drive Safe* need to ensure they register for the practical component of the driver training package. *Think Safe, Drive Safe* is a packaged theory and practical component so registered users will not reap the full benefits of the program if they do not participate in the practical evaluation.

The practical evaluation includes a variety of car operation skills such as engine preparation, steering,

manoeuvring, general traffic driving and parking. These skills can assist people to become safer and more responsible drivers, and in turn reduce the risk of being involved in an accident.

To register for the practical component, contact Mark Parsonson on 07 3225 8774.

Fuelling the future

What is a hydrogen fuelled car?

A hydrogen fuelled car is a vehicle powered by hydrogen, the simplest and most abundant of all chemical elements.

While hydrogen fuelled vehicles are not yet commercially available, manufacturers around the world have already invested billions of dollars into research and development.

How does it work?

There are two types of engines that can use hydrogen as a fuel – those that have an internal combustion engine converted to use hydrogen and those that are made up of a stack of fuel cells.

When used in an internal combustion engine, the hydrogen burns and the only by-product is water – no other pollutants are released.

When used in a fuel cell engine, the fuel cells make electricity as they go. Fuel cell technology is in fact rather complicated.

To sum it all up, the hydrogen fuel reacts with oxygen from the air to produce water and electricity which, in turn, powers the vehicle.

Advantages

Some of the advantages of hydrogen include:

- no exhaust gases
- no carbon dioxide emissions
- greater efficiency
- no worry of diminishing oil supplies and rising prices

Disadvantages

The main disadvantage of hydrogen fuelled cars is difficulty in storing hydrogen. At normal temperatures hydrogen is a gas and must be packed tightly into a vehicle's fuel tank. Otherwise vehicles would need

to be refuelled every few kilometres.

Safety

There have been some safety concerns about the use of hydrogen as a fuel.

However, if handled properly, hydrogen is no more dangerous than petrol.

The future

Highways of hydrogen fuelled vehicles is a vision still many years in the future. However, with increasing concern for sustainable environmental practices, many experts are looking to hydrogen as the new fuel.

CAS tips

CAS V4 - Making it easier to manage your fleet

In December 2002 QFleet launched a new and improved version of our Client Access System – CAS V4. CAS V4 was designed to make it easier for you to manage your fleet.

So far support for CAS V4 has been extremely positive. Clients are telling us they have found CAS V4 more productive, convenient and easier to use in their daily fleet management activities.

Major improvements included:

- a fresher appearance
- simpler and more reliable reporting by model
- easier to download data
- additional reports and fields

- more reliable printing
- greater functionality

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to provide feedback and comments.

If you have any feedback or queries, please contact our CAS help desk on telephone +61 7 3224 4128 or email help@qfleet.qld.gov.au

QFleet auction schedule

March/April 2003

Buying a motor vehicle is a big decision. Your choice of vehicle tends to reflect changing priorities, interests and commitments. A major event like buying a car should be exciting and satisfying. QFleet makes buying an ex-government vehicle as convenient as possible.

You can save yourself a lot of hassle by using *My Next Car*, QFleet's online vehicle finder service. Simply visit www.mynextcar.qld.gov.au to view the range of ex-lease vehicles coming up for auction.

Brisbane

QFleet Workshop

72 Pineapple Street, Zillmere

Inspection 10am to 4pm on the Wednesday and Thursday prior to auction and 8am to 8.30am on auction day

Auction 8.30am and 10am

Dates Friday March 7, 14, 21, 28

Friday April 4, 11

Thursday April 17, 24

Gold Coast

Public Trust Office

Cnr Nerang and Garden Street, Southport

Inspection 12pm to 4pm on day prior to auction and 9am to 11am on auction day

Auction 11am

Date Wednesday March 5

Wednesday April 2

Sunshine Coast

Nambour Showgrounds

Coronation Avenue, Nambour

Inspection 12pm to 4pm on day prior to auction and 9am to 11am on auction day

Auction 11am

Date Tuesday March 18

Tuesday April 15

Toowoomba

Plant Hire Services Workshops

427 Greenwattle Street, Toowoomba

Inspection 8am to 11am on auction day

Auction 11am

Dates Thursday March 6, 20

Thursday April 3, 23

Maryborough

Department of Primary Industries

Forestry Workshops

Walker Street, Maryborough

Inspection 8am to 11am on auction day

Auction 11am

Date Wednesday March 19

Wednesday April 16

Rockhampton

Plant Hire Services Workshop

214 Richardson Road, Kawana

Inspection 8am to 11am on auction day

Auction 11am

Date Tuesday March 11

Tuesday April 8

Mackay

Plant Hire Services Workshop

Corner Bridge Road and Hume Street,
Mackay

Inspection 8am to 11am on auction day

Auction 11am

Date Monday April 7

Townsville

Plant Hire Services Workshop

Jurekey Street, Cluden

Inspection 2pm to 4pm on day prior to auction and 8am to 11am on auction day

Auction 11am

Date Wednesday March 12

Wednesday April 9

Cairns

Plant Hire Services Workshop

Cnr Adelaide and Donaldson Streets,
Manunda

Inspection 8am to 11am on auction day

Auction 11am

Date Thursday March 13

Thursday April 10

For further information about QFleet auctions contact Rodney Clough or Selina Walmsley on 1800 735 338.

For an auction catalogue fax the Public Trustee on 1902 241 027 (dial from fax handset) or visit our web site at www.qfleet.qld.gov.au.

QFleet working in partnership with you

As your partner, QFleet provides fleet and asset services to ensure enduring value for you and for Queensland. We help you achieve your outcomes through our comprehensive range of services including:

- Vehicle leasing and strategic fleet management.
- Short-term and special purpose vehicle rentals through our Vehicle Hire Service.
- Vehicle maintenance, servicing and repairs through the Zillmere Workshop and the South Brisbane Service Centre.
- The closest fuel and detailing to the Brisbane CBD at the South Brisbane Service Centre.
- Insurance claims management and driver safety programs.
- Fleet advisory services.

QFleet clients are welcome to reprint articles from *Journey*, provided the article is used in full and QFleet is acknowledged as the author.

For further information or to contribute a story idea please contact:

Jo-Anne Rasmussen

Editor *QFleet Journey*

GPO Box 293

Brisbane Queensland 4001

Telephone: 07 3224 4722

Email: journey@qfleet.qld.gov.au

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Please fax to 07 3224 6242 or
mail to GPO Box 293 Brisbane Qld 4001

