

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

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## Superior fleet management to reduce government costs

**Cost reduction and an increased focus on its core business are only two of the benefits QBuild will see as a result of a total fleet management agreement with QFleet.**

QFleet and QBuild entered into the agreement as part of the Shared Services Initiatives being implemented across government. QFleet is piloting the total fleet management initiative in a landmark agreement with QBuild.

Group General Manager Les Clarence said the agreement was an important step for QFleet in providing opportunities for organisations to pool resources and streamline practices.

Les said the agreement would see QBuild working closely with QFleet to better align their transport resources to business plan objectives, resulting in cost reductions.

"Automation of processes will allow QFleet staff to further improve efficiency and customer service.

"Over time, this value-added efficiency will be extended to other QFleet clients."

Under the agreement QFleet has extended its services to include the management of QBuild's fleet so it can focus on its core business. Key services provided under the agreement with QBuild include fuel card management, fleet related invoicing and profiling of current fleet practices.

QBuild General Manager Tony Waters said he was looking forward to the positive changes the agreement would bring to the business.

"This arrangement with QFleet reflects a new direction in public sector management, where agencies focus their resources more on doing what they do best, instead of trying to be an expert at everything," he said.

"The end result will be a more efficient use of available resources, which should translate into increased services to the public."

Les Clarence said QFleet would discuss the benefits of the Shared Services Initiative with other clients in the near future.

"Through this initiative, QFleet aims to ensure all clients receive the best possible service so they can concentrate on other business priorities," Les said.

The agreement officially commenced on April 1 2003 and both QFleet and QBuild are pleased with the positive outcomes experienced so far.



Group General Manager Queensland Services Group Les Clarence (L) and QBuild General Manager Tony Waters sign the Shared Services agreement.

"This agreement marks the first step towards QFleet extending its service to a total fleet management role across government.

"This means organisations will see an improvement in fleet management efficiency and potential cost reductions through fleet profiling, whole-of-life costing and automated selection," he said.



**QFleet**  
Queensland Government  
Queensland Services Group  
Department of Public Works



# A message from the Group General Manager

I am pleased to announce that QFleet has taken another step towards aligning its services with whole-of-government priorities.

The fleet management agreement between QBuild and QFleet is an important partnership for both business areas and will demonstrate the very real benefits that QFleet can bring to our clients. The efforts involved in bringing about this partnership have been well spent and I would like to thank all QBuild and QFleet staff involved.

The agreement with QBuild is very much in line with the Government's Shared Services Initiative. Last year, during the development phase of this initiative QFleet met with almost all its clients to explore the role it could play to deliver its services within this new environment.

A range of enhancements to existing services, and the development of new services were identified. Since then we have been developing these so that we can offer a more complete service to all our clients.

On another note, you would by now be aware of the success *Greenfleet* has had in reducing emissions in our atmosphere. However, we should also be reminded of the contribution *Greenfleet* makes towards the preservation of wildlife through the planting of thousands of trees.

Restoring the habitat of the endangered Coxen's Fig Parrot is just one example of the contribution *Greenfleet* has made to protecting endangered species. There are currently as few as 50 of these parrots left in Queensland as a result of tree

harvesting for development sites. However, the planting of some 70,000 trees at Elanda Point will provide vital food and shelter for the parrots.

QFleet is proud to be a member of *Greenfleet* and we will continue to help address other environmental issues by continuing our commitment to this organisation.

Through our involvement with *Greenfleet* and other environmental organisations, QFleet plays a key role in maintaining a cleaner, greener Queensland. Even the smallest actions can help save the environment - if everyone made an environmentally conscious decision each day then we could make a real difference!

## Did you know?

**Holden was named after James Alexander Holden, who in 1852, at the age of 17 years, immigrated to South Australia from Staffordshire, England.**

Originally a leather-worker and saddle-maker, Holden extended his work in 1908 to carrying out repairs to car upholstery. He soon manufactured automobile hoods and

side-curtains and in 1914, extended his business to manufacturing custom-made car bodies using laborious carriage-building techniques.

Source: [www.sydneytoranaclub.com](http://www.sydneytoranaclub.com)

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# Proof of the purchase is in the petrol savings

**A very astute local business operator has snapped up the first petrol-electric hybrid vehicle to be offered for sale by QFleet.**

Bob Hicks's curiosity was roused after he saw the Honda Insight at a QFleet motor auction.

"I actually went to the auction to buy a medium-sized station wagon when the Honda Insight caught my eye. The look of the vehicle and the way it was presented by QFleet was certainly a positive. It looked brand new and the vehicle has been well maintained," Bob said.

The Insight uses Honda's Integrated Motor Assist (IMA) hybrid system

combining a lean-burn 1litre VTEC ULEV (Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle) engine with a revolutionary electric motor.

The prudence of the purchase was confirmed when the Insight's owner claimed he had significantly saved in running costs.

"The Insight is very economical. I have a Mercedes Benz which costs about \$30 per week to run. The Insight costs me around \$6 for the same amount of motoring," Bob said.

The aluminium body weighs just 830kg. The unique aerodynamic shape helps give the Insight one of the lowest coefficients of drag

(0.25) of any mass produced car in the world.

"When I'm out on an about I often get asked questions about the vehicle as most people have not seen an Insight. Most males are interested in the technical aspects such as the electrical systems and the females are more interested in the economy and the classy look," he said.

And safety has not been sacrificed to achieve economy. The Insight is designed for optimal driver and passenger protection and meets the most stringent safety standards.

Mr Hicks can also feel good about doing his bit for the environment. Initially acquired as part of QFleet's environmental strategy, the Insight meets standards 90% below the existing national emission requirements.

QFleet retains ownership of another Honda Insight, which may be auctioned at a later date.

For information regarding the Honda Insight contact Fleet Sales Manager Rodney Clough on 07 3224 6149.



The Honda Insight is unique in both its appearance and technology.

# Vehicle market forces

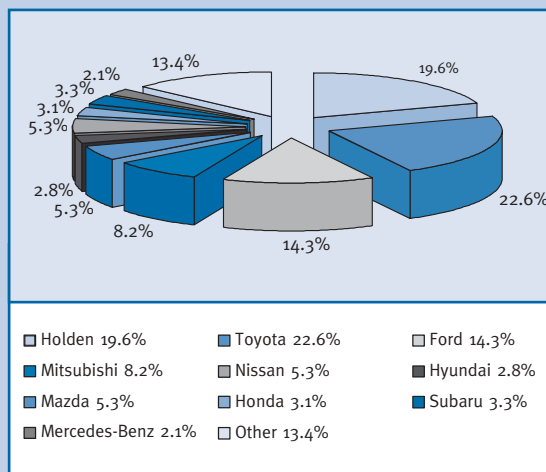
**March 2003 overall market**

The March 2003 market is up 12.2% when compared with March 2002. March 2003 had the same number of selling days as March 2002. This equates to an increase of 323.8 vehicles per day.

**March 2003 market segments**

The Passenger Vehicle Market improved by 11.4% over the same month last year, whilst the light truck market increased by 20.7% and the heavy commercial vehicle market increased by 11.6% over March 2002.

Toyota was market leader in March, followed by Holden and Ford. Toyota lead Holden with a margin of 2,495 vehicle sales, or 1.2 market share points.



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

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## FBT returns made easy

**You should have recently received the OFBT (Fringe Benefit Tax file) and OSIM (Simplifier File) report which are mainly used for the preparation of the vehicle fringe benefits.**

When preparing your FBT return, follow these simple guidelines:

- The vehicle's odometer reading is a key aspect of the car fringe benefit. A correct reading ensures accuracy in the FBT liability calculation. It is essential that you take the closing odometer reading on 31 March. Always ensure that the log book is accessible on that day (end of FBT year).
- Most errors occur when transferring data to the FBT simplifier (the program used to calculate the Fringe Benefit Liability). Always double check the figures

imported into the FBT simplifier. Figures to check include the reasonableness of the base value, annualised kilometres travelled, and other operating costs incurred by the motor vehicle.

- The benchmark interest rate for 2002/2003 FBT return has decreased to 6.05%. This rate is used in the operating cost method of calculating the FBT liability

By following these simple guidelines, you can help to reduce the hassle involved in preparing your Fringe Benefit Tax report.

## Rare bird given a breather

**As part of QFleet's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, all QFleet vehicles are signed up to Greenfleet. For a small subscription fee, Greenfleet plants native trees on behalf of car owners to offset carbon dioxide emissions from their vehicles.**

However, restoring the habitat of the endangered Coxen's Fig Parrot is a bonus spin-off of QFleet's subscription to the national environmental organisation.

The parrot's numbers have to reduced to as few as 50 in Queensland as a result of land clearing for agriculture and development. But the planting of 70,000 trees at Elanda Point will help to save this species.

On the Sunshine Coast, students from Noosaville State Primary

School and Coroora Secondary School took part in the native greening program. By planting the ficus species, they are helping to restore a valuable food source for these rare parrots.

The planting at Great Sandy National Park commenced in March and an official presentation was given by the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing, the Honourable Robert Swarten MP.

Greenfleet's Technical Director Henry O'Cleary also gave a presentation at the launch as did QFleet's Ross Webster who briefly explained the technology behind the hybrid vehicles, the Insight and Prius, another element of QFleet's environmental program.

QFleet has provided for 214,000 trees to be planted across Southern

Queensland including Gin Gin, Springbrook and Boreen Point. These plantings yet again confirm our commitment to doing what we can to protect our environment.



*The planting of 70,000 trees will provide a valuable food source for the Coxen's Fig Parrot.*

### Contacting QFleet

#### Senior Account Managers

1800 668 283

#### Maintenance Controllers

1800 061 819

#### QFleet Workshop

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#### 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

# The service centre

## Tips for safe winching

**Electric winches are one of the most useful pieces of recovery equipment you can own. However, you should take great care when selecting and fitting a winch so that you don't find yourself in a sticky situation.**

Vehicles also need to be equipped with other important tools to provide the best winch operation and protect the operator and the environment from harm.

As a general guide winches must have the capacity of pulling 1.5 times the gross weight of the vehicle.

Electric winches require a large and reliable source of electrical current to operate. The vehicle should be fitted with a suitable battery (or dual batteries) and have an alternator capable of recharging the batteries during peak usage.

Under extreme winching conditions the winch should left to cool every 90 seconds and the engine should be started after 10 minutes of winching time to recharge the battery.

Winches which are regularly submerged in water require additional maintenance as they are prone to rust.

Vehicles with winches should also be equipped with some additional basic recovery equipment. A snatch block and

some "D" shackles are recommended to increase the winching power or to change the angle of pull.

Winch operators should wear protective gloves when handling winch cables and should position themselves well clear of the cable when it is under tension.

A winch cable which breaks or becomes detached from its anchor point can seriously injure the operator or damage adjacent vehicles and equipment. Placing a heavy bag, a jacket, or a similar large soft object over the cable will minimise whiplash damage if it breaks.

A properly maintained winch is a valuable accessory which enables you to recover the vehicle from most situations. A neglected winch is likely to fail when it is most needed and can lead to expensive recovery operations. To avoid these situations vehicle winches should be inspected and exercised routinely. The cable should be unwound, cleaned, and inspected for kinks and other obvious damage.

Clients requiring additional information regarding the operation, maintenance and performance of winches should consult the winch handbook contained in the vehicle glove box or contact QFleet's Maintenance Manager, Allan Smith on 07 3225 8783.

# How does it work?

## Vehicle crumple zones

**In 1966, Volvo was instrumental in providing protection to passengers involved in crashes by introducing crumple zones. Since then, crumple zones have become standard equipment in the manufacturing of nearly all new cars.**

Crumple zones are built into the front and rear of vehicles. The bonnet and boot areas are designed to progressively buckle in a controlled manner during an impact. In simple terms, the crumple zone is a weakness deliberately built into a vehicle to absorb an impact.

The crumple zone works in a similar way to a pile of foam rubber a stuntman uses when he falls from a tall building. The foam rubber absorbs the impact energy and minimise injuries to the stuntman. If the same

stuntman was to fall without some impact absorbing material, the full force of the impact with the ground would be absorbed by his body - probably with fatal results.

The majority of injuries and fatalities experienced in accidents are caused by forces released on passengers through rapid deceleration. The crumple zones in a vehicle allow the vehicle panels to collapse in a designated sequence. This slows the rate of deceleration and reduces the impact forces on the passengers, resulting in a reduction in death and injuries.

Many people believe that modern cars are not manufactured as well as older vehicles because newer vehicles sustain so much visible damage, particularly in front and rear end accidents. The visible damage may give the impression of a weaker

vehicle, but it is really an indication that the crumple zones are doing their job of reducing the impact forces on the vehicle's passengers.

So it is well worth remembering that it is the vehicle, and not the vehicle's occupants, that is taking the full force of the collision - a much better alternative.



*Crumple zones are designed to absorb the full impact of motor vehicle crashes.*

## Research study to help reduce road trauma

**QFleet is currently engaged in a research project with QUT to determine what factors most influence the way people drive QFleet vehicles.**

Sharon Newnam (a PhD research student from Queensland University of Technology) is responsible for conducting the research which focuses on a number of road safety issues.

“We are conducting research to determine whether QFleet drivers have attended driver training, what causes them to drive a certain way and what they think about QFleet’s Journey

publication which always includes features about road safety.

“With cars throughout the state, obviously we value the input from drivers operating regionally, as well as in south-east Queensland,” she said.

Sharon has compiled an extensive review of scientific papers and literature from Australia and internationally as part of the background for the project.

Insurance claims information from as early as 1993 has been analysed and presented to QFleet.

She recently reported to QFleet on

the correlation between her project and a range of safety strategies which QFleet is refining for delivery to its client base.

Sharon said she was looking forward to embarking on phase two of the study.

“I’ll be using the finding from phase one of the research to design, implement and evaluate new countermeasures to reduce road trauma,” she said.

Sharon will present her findings from phase one of the research to QFleet in May 2003.

## Vehicle profile

### VY Holden Ute

The VY Holden Ute is a medium sized two-door utility. The VY Ute is based on the Commodore and now has independent rear suspension (IRS) standard.

Holden will be releasing a one-tonne model in June 2003 and QFleet will have these vehicles available for lease in July or August.

There are currently three different models in this range. These specifications relate to the VY base model ute.

[For further information on the VY Ute please contact your Fleet Consultant.](#)



VY Holden Ute

Seats	2 persons
Sound system	AM/FM stereo electronic tune radio, single disc compact disc player
Air conditioning	standard on all vehicles available from QFleet
Transmission	5 speed manual or 4 speed automatic
Airbags	driver airbag standard passenger airbag optional
Cruise control	optional
Brakes	four wheel disc ABS brakes optional
Engine	3.8 litre V6 engine
Power	152kW @ 5200rpm
Torque	305 Nm @ 3600rpm
Limited slip differential	optional
Payload	auto 830 kg manual 780 kg
Average fuel use city cycle (per 100km)	11.5 litres (manual) 11 litres (automatic)
Average fuel use highway cycle (per 100km)	7.4 litres (manual) 7.0 litres (automatic)

# Road safety review

## Motorcycle safety guide

**Have you ever found yourself envying the freedom that motorcyclists have when they weave in an out of peak hour traffic? Although riding a motorcycle may seem like a hassle free alternative to driving, there is a price to pay for this freedom.**

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB), states that motorcyclists are around 29 times more likely to be fatally injured than drivers of other vehicles travelling the same distance.

Whether at fault or not, motorcyclists risk serious injury if involved in an accident. Severe head and brain injuries often occur as the riders are far less protected than a vehicle occupant.

As motorcycling becomes increasingly popular, an important road safety challenge has presented itself in saving lives and preventing injury to the riders.

Queensland Transport statistics reveal that 56 motorbike fatalities were recorded in 2002, with 29 occurring in 2001. This level of fatalities is significantly high considering the number of motorcyclists on Queensland roads compared to motor vehicles.

In order to reduce the seriousness of head injuries, it is now compulsory in Queensland for a rider and pillion passenger to wear an approved helmet at all times. Whilst not compulsory, protective clothing such as leather pants, jacket, gloves and covered boots can also help reduce the severity of injuries sustained.

Motorcyclists can contribute by avoiding dangerous and illegal behaviours such as weaving in and out of traffic between lanes and travelling along the road shoulder.

Educating fellow motorists is another way of reducing motorcycle carnage. There is much discussion on how to avoid a collision with other vehicles, but little is said on how to avoid accidents with motorcycles, despite the high number of injuries and fatalities.

To help reduce the incidence of accidents involving motorcycles, Queensland Transport gives the following tips about sharing the roads safely with motorbikes:

- Always scan the traffic for motorbike riders – look in your mirrors or over your shoulder.
- Check your blind spot for motorbike riders – look in mirrors and over your shoulder.
- Motorbike riders have a right to use the entire lane. You must overtake a motorbike rider as you would overtake a car.
- Be aware that motorbikes can accelerate and brake quickly – make sure there is at least a two second gap between vehicles.
- Use your lights in poor conditions – this helps motorbike riders to see you better.

By alerting yourself to motorcyclists, you can help save lives. Share the road and always remember to look left, look right, look bike.



*Wearing protective clothing can help reduce motorcycle injuries in the event of an accident.*

# QFleet auction schedule

May/June 2003

**Don't be fooled into buying a used vehicle without a safety certificate. All QFleet ex-lease vehicles are sold with a current safety certificate.**

The safety certificate covers checks on tyres, brakes, steering, body rust and other basic safety functions.

For added protection, QFleet vehicles also come with the balance of new car warranty and a statutory warranty. An optional extended warranty is also available at competitive prices.

With RACQ offering pre-inspection (on some vehicles), pre-approved finance, insurance and membership services on site at our Zillmere auctions, there's never been a better time to buy.

## Brisbane

QFleet Workshop  
72 Pineapple Street, Zillmere

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

**Auction** 8.30am and 10am

**Dates** Friday May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30  
Friday June 6, 13, 20, 27

## 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 May 17  
Wednesday June 4

## 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 May 20  
Tuesday June 24

## Toowoomba

Plant Hire Services Workshops  
427 Greenwattle Street, Toowoomba

**Inspection** 8am to 11am on auction day

**Auction** 11am

**Date** Thursday May 8, 22  
Thursday June 5, 26

## Maryborough

Department of Primary Industries  
Forestry Workshops

Walker Street, Maryborough

**Inspection** 8am to 11am on auction day

**Auction** 11am

**Date** Wednesday May 21  
Wednesday June 25

## Rockhampton

Plant Hire Services Workshop  
214 Richardson Road, Kawana

**Inspection** 8am to 11am on auction day

**Auction** 11am

**Date** Tuesday May 13  
Tuesday June 17

## Mackay

Plant Hire Services Workshop  
Corner Bridge Road and Hume Street, Mackay

**Inspection** 8am to 11am on auction day

**Auction** 11am

**Date** Monday 16 June

## 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 May 14  
Wednesday June 18

## Cairns

Plant Hire Services Workshop  
Cnr Adelaide and Donaldson Streets,  
Manunda

**Inspection** 8am to 11am on auction day

**Auction** 11am

**Date** Thursday May 15  
Thursday June 19

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](http://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.

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