Northern Territory Government drives down greenhouse gas emissions

The Territory’s first ever full electric production car will take to the streets of Darwin today as part of the Henderson’s Government’s commitment to become carbon neutral by 2018.

Minister for Business and Employment, Rob Knight said the i-MiEV electric car is one of 40 in Australia and will showcase the Northern Territory Government’s vital Greening the Fleet Strategy.

“The Henderson Government is taking leadership on climate change and has committed to reduce greenhouse emissions from the Government fleet by 20 per cent by 2013,” Mr Knight said.

“We need to take advantage of new and more sustainable technology as it emerges - as part of our Greening the Territory plan we are replacing high emission government vehicles with cleaner options.”

Minister for Climate Change Karl Hampton welcomed the zero-exhaust emissions i-MiEV, which has a range of 160km on a single charge.

“Transport is a big contributor to greenhouse gas emissions worldwide and we are keen to assess the role of electric vehicles in reducing the Territory’s emissions,” Mr Hampton said.

“One advantage we have in the Northern Territory is that with gas generation of electricity, electric vehicles are even cleaner here than in coal fired states like down south.”

Mr Knight said the eye-catching i-MiEV will now enter the government fleet.

“Members of the NT Public Sector will now have the opportunity to test drive and assess the technology under operating duties ahead of it being available for purchase in 2011 and I am looking forward to hearing how the i-MiEV stacks up in real life,” Mr Knight said.
"I expect the car will also make a great talking point spotted around town and will be a discussion point for picnicking families. It may even encourage more people to explore greener models available when making their next car purchase."

For example, since July 2009 the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS) has
- Cut greenhouse emissions by 9.2% from the previous year.
- Cut 13 cars from the NRETAS fleet
- Cut 15 4WD vehicles from the NRETAS Fleet; and
- Added four hybrid vehicles.

President and CEO of Mitsubishi Motors Australia Limited, Masahiko Takahashi joined Minister Knight to officially hand over the keys to the Northern Territory Government.

"The Mitsubishi i-MiEV is the first volume production electric vehicle to be marketed in Australia, and we are pleased and proud to be at the forefront of this technology," President Takahashi said.

"As we hand this vehicle over today, we are anticipating a future full of environmentally friendly electric cars, operated by forward thinking organisations like the Northern Territory Government," President Takahashi concluded.

Minister Knight said the Northern Territory Government’s Greening the Fleet policy has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 2300 tonnes in 2014 - the equivalent to the emissions produced by about 700 cars in one year.

"The Northern Territory Government is on track to reducing its greenhouse emissions from the NTG fleet by 20 per cent by 2013 and has already achieved a five per cent reduction in emissions since 2009," Mr Knight said.

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The i-MiEV:
- has zero exhaust emissions
- the CO2 emissions used when charging equate to approximately 30% of the CO2 emissions of a comparable petrol-driven vehicle
- is plugged into a 15 amp socket
- takes seven hours to fully charge empty batteries. ‘Top up’ charging takes considerably less time
- can store 16kW of energy on full charge
- can travel 160km fully charged