

**Question taken on Notice
Minister's Budget Estimates Hearing**

QUESTION

Renewal energy strategy

1. What systematic approach, if any, is being taken by the Department of State and Regional Development to identify suitable sites in NSW for expansion of

- a. wind
- b. wave
- c. tidal
- d. geothermal?

Fleet Cars

2. What is the percentage of hybrids in the car fleet associated with the Department for State and Regional Development?

3. Is there a mechanism within the agency to reward staff who choose not to exercise an entitlement to a fleet vehicle as a part of their package but use public transport instead?

4. What car does the Director-General drive?

ANSWER

1. Under the State Plan, Business Growth Plans have been developed for 12 regions across NSW. Renewable energy opportunities are highlighted in relevant regions, for example the Hunter region, where the CSIRO Energy Technology Centre at Newcastle provides a hub for activity.

The Department of State and Regional Development has worked with a number of project proponents over the last ten years to encourage them to establish wind energy generation facilities in NSW. The Department has targeted a company in this industry introducing it to assistance programs available from the NSW Government and is monitoring the company's progress.

Furthermore, the NSW Government supports companies across the State, with the relevant products, services and capabilities, access renewable energy supply chains and projects through the DSRD supported Industry Capability Network.

The Department has also identified companies active in geothermal energy in NSW for the purposes of linking them to potential foreign investors.

The Government, through the Department of State and Regional Development, has prepared a booklet profiling 68 NSW companies, which are working in the field of environmental improvement. The companies profiled in the booklet cover a full range of environmental technologies and services - long life batteries, solar and wind energy devices, water purification, environmental remediation, pollution monitoring, wastewater treatment and landscape management.

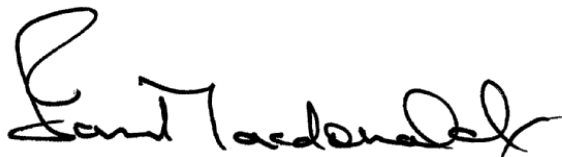
Examples of companies in the directory include Ausra Pty Ltd, who build the world's lowest cost large utility scale solar thermal concentrators; and Oceanlinx Limited, a leading international company in the field of wave energy conversion.

The booklet is designed to be used as a resource for both business and individuals looking to reduce their environmental footprint.

2. There is one hybrid vehicle (Toyota Prius) in the Department's fleet.

3. No.

4. Toyota Prado.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Macdonald', with a stylized flourish at the end.

IAN MACDONALD MLC

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Energy

Minister for Mineral Resources

Minister for State Development