

(Working Title)**First Car Buyers Grant**

For the majority of young drivers attaining their license for the first time, their first car is likely to be an older car or a “hand me down.”

A recent car sales study revealed that one in five vehicles (18 per cent) purchased in the last 12 months were ‘first cars’. More broadly, one in four (23 per cent) of those are new cars whilst **three out of four (77 per cent) are used***.

It makes little common sense that inexperienced drivers own ageing vehicles with poor crash safety performance.

According to the National Road Safety Partnership Program (NRSPP), the most common causes of road fatalities and car accidents occasioning serious harm are: fatigue, speed, distraction (including mobile phones), and alcohol or drugs.

Younger people are most likely to drink drive, drive tired, speed, own ageing vehicles and be seriously injured or have fatal crashes. The combination of these factors means our youngest drivers face a high risk of serious injury or even the loss of life in accidents. One in four fatalities involve pedestrians.

(Subsidised) First Car Buyers Grant

Much in the way that a first home buyers grant works, we are looking for the State Government to consider subsidies for first time car purchases.

By way of consideration, we believe that “the grant” should have a variety of conditions:

1. Must be 5 star Ancap rating
(Airbags, Antilock brakes, adaptive headlights, electronic stability, traction control)
2. Car must be under a certain age
(and RWC, maintained and serviced)
3. Car must be comprehensively insured
(insurance needs to include driver safety training - which most do)
4. Have an inbuilt device to block mobile phone use* or as a minimum equipped with fully automated hands free
5. And Ideally fitted with (latest) safety packs and cameras
(Adaptive Cruise Control, Active Park Assist, Automated Emergency Braking, Automatic High-Beams, Blind-Spot Monitor Driver-Attention Monitor Forward-Collision and Lane Departure Warnings)

* TBC

By purchasing a newer vehicle, via the proposed scheme, you would immediately see cars that offer improved crash performance and additional safety features.

- Better cars on the road
- Safer cars on the road
- Better trained and equipped drivers
- Reduced emission and pollution
- Less mobile use
- Better safety for pedestrians and the public

“Newer cars protect occupants better in accidents, with fewer deaths and severe injuries and more occupants receiving only minor or moderate, non-life threatening injuries.”

Not to mention that this would be extremely beneficial to car manufacturing, dealerships and sales along with economical flow on effects to industry especially the automotive and finance industries.

The subsidies could come from Stamp Duty, Manufacturer discounts, Tariffs, Taxes.

We have done some preliminary work on this and have support from the chamber of commerce, automotive industry and OEMs. We have struggled to date to have an audience with the Minister or TAC and would appreciate this introduction and help on this project.

I am happy to elaborate further on our unique proposition.

Kind regards,