



What is COMCAR?

Part of Finance's Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Division, COMCAR provides high quality, secure car-with-driver services to a range of clients, including the Governor-General, Prime Minister, Federal Parliamentarians, Federal Judiciary and Heads of Commonwealth agencies. This activity is known as Business As Usual (BAU).

COMCAR also facilitates delivery of car-with-driver and associated ground transport services for the official Australian Guest of Government Visits program and major events. Examples of these events are the G20, State funerals and the Commonwealth Games.

To learn more about the 119-year history of car-with-driver services, read [Going the Extra Mile - A History of the Commonwealth Car Service 1910 – 2010](#).

Current COMCAR fleet

COMCAR currently leases 142 Holden Caprice sedans for the provision of car-with-driver service to clients across Australia.

COMCAR complies with the [Australian Government Fleet \(AGF\) Vehicle Selection Policy](#) and leases vehicles through the Whole of Government fleet manager sgfleet. Vehicles are typically leased from two to three years, depending on location and the level of usage.

Fast facts about the current fleet

- The average monthly distance travelled by the fleet is 134,607 kms.
- The fleet performed nearly 50,000 trips with a 99.71% success rate in 2018-19.

New COMCAR fleet

COMCAR's new fleet will comprise a mixed fleet of:

- Toyota Camry Hybrid sedan
- BMW 6 Series GT sedan

The new fleet will be rolled out from early 2020 as the current Holden Caprice sedans reach the end of lease. COMCAR expects the vast majority of the fleet to transition by mid-2020, with remaining vehicles to transition upon lease expiry.

In the ACT, COMCAR will have a mixed fleet with the Camrys primarily used to deliver the parliamentary shuttle service. All other States and the NT will have a fleet of BMW 6 Series GT sedans.

The BMW 6 Series GT sedans will carry out both BAU and services for Guest of Government visits.

Car selection process

The process to select new cars for any government fleet is guided by the [Australian Government Fleet Vehicle Selection Policy](#). The current AGF Vehicle Selection Policy states that agencies must ensure the vehicle:

- a) has a five star Australasian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP) safety rating
- b) meets the minimum fit for purpose requirements;
- c) provides value for money
- d) addresses environmental considerations.

Overall, 18 vehicles were assessed for inclusion in a trial. This included a mixture of sedans and SUVs as well as a mixture of petrol, diesel, hybrid and fully electric vehicles.

Following the assessment, COMCAR chose seven vehicles for inclusion in a trial – the Toyota Camry Hybrid, the BMW 6 Series GT, the BMW 5 Series, the Hyundai Genesis, the Mercedes E-Class, the BMW X5 (SUV) and the Mercedes GLE (SUV).

As part of the trial, COMCAR conducted both off-road performance assessments on a closed circuit track and on-road assessments in Business As Usual scenarios, involving clients.

During the on-road assessment, COMCAR measured a number of factors, including fuel consumption, vehicle handling, manoeuvrability and performance in a variety of traffic conditions, driver and passenger comfort, ease of access for passengers, luggage space and potential integration with the new COMCAR Automated Resource System (CARS).

The trial provided COMCAR with a good cross-section of feedback from technical tests, driver comparisons and client feedback, 'real life' use, as well as input from the Australian Federal Police and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

In assessing the trial vehicles, COMCAR adhered to the criteria in the Vehicle Selection Policy and had regard to COMCAR client and security requirements. Due to a number of security considerations and commercially sensitive information contained within the evaluation report, it will not be made publicly available.

New fleet savings

Once fully operational, COMCAR projects annual savings of approximately \$100,000 compared with the projected cost of the current fleet of Holden Caprice in 2019-20.

This has been calculated by combining the vehicle lease cost with running costs such as fuel, vehicle registration and maintenance costs.