



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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URGENT NEED FOR SYDNEY STRATEGIC GREEN TRANSPORT PLAN TO STOP 20 PER CENT GREENHOUSE POLLUTION INCREASE¹

Fleet management expert concerned Sydney is behind in vital green transport planning for the city

Leading Australian fleet management company Interleasing is **urging the New South Wales Government and Sydney businesses to seriously consider** the implementation of a **feasible green transport plan** for Sydney, to **avoid any further increase in air pollution levels and greenhouse gases.**

Interleasing's Managing Director, Michael Mitrovits, said today that overseas green zone models like that implemented in London were proving to have little long term effect, with more effective strategies available to NSW planners, such as **heightened encouragement of hybrid or 'green' cars across for all individuals**, and for businesses in particular, **the introduction of 'green' fleets.**

"London's roads are now as grid locked and polluted as when the congestion charge was introduced five years ago, and there is now severe doubt in the European community as to whether the congestion charge is the solution to combating increasing motor vehicle emissions in CBD centres," said Michael.

Recent government data shows that car usage in Sydney is forecast to rise and that by 2013, the number of car trips in Sydney in the morning peak is expected to hit 250,000, up from approximately 167,000 today. Vehicle kilometres will increase by at least 10.8 per cent by 2016, and this will significantly contribute to an increase in air pollution if there are no changes made by the government or businesses now to alter Sydney's transport and roads system.

"With the green zone and congestion charge trialled in the UK, there have been some clear issues that have arose from this scheme that we can learn from so that a more effective green transport plan can be implemented for Sydney. A green transport plan needn't be expensive for the tax payer, it just requires forward planning," said Michael.

"The key is to look at car usage and how we can manage this more effectively – either through the use of more eco-friendly cars, better public transport systems for those who don't need a vehicle for work purposes, or looking at management plans to reduce commuter travel times and therefore fuel usage in CBD areas. We need to look at long term changes in how vehicles are being used and set in place long term plans to green

¹ Australian Conservation Foundation, June 2008

this process as much as possible rather than just putting a larger dent in commuters wallets from extra environmental taxes and charges,” Michael continued.

Michael urges the New South Wales Government and businesses to consider the following as part of a green transport plan:

1.	Introduce a staged approach to ‘greening’ transport in Sydney	A staged approach to ‘greening’ transport, in the form of hybrid vehicles, green-preferred road zones, etc, over three years, would help to build a habit and allow car manufactures and other parties to adapt to this change at a reasonable rate.
2.	Introduce green fleets to businesses	Where a company has a fleet, the introduction of a green fleet, consisting of environmentally friendly vehicles, will help not only the environment but also the businesses accountability to its long term environmental footprint. Recent data from Interleasing shows that government fleets are leading the charge of transferring to green fleets, with businesses slow to follow. Also, less than 0.5 percent of cars registered in Australia are hybrids² . Businesses should introduce staggered start and finish times for commuters to reduce travel and fuel usage.
3.	Adapt other environmental initiatives in the CBD to encourage a rounded environmental approach	Initiatives such as compulsory solar power panels on all buildings, and a strict ‘lights-off’ policy for after hours, will assist with furthering the green cause in the CBD.
4.	Improve public transport and encourage usage	The Government must live up to its promise of improving public transport in order for a reduction of car usage to have a real effect for commuters.
5.	Improve cycling conditions and encourage commuters to cycle through the city	With the introduction of the green zone and congestion charge in the UK, commuters have started to cycle where possible through the CBD. Sydney needs to improve conditions for cyclists on roads, and perhaps even offer a cyclist incentive to encourage commuters to take up this environmentally friendly transport method.

“As the motor industry can ably predict driver behaviour, trends in the motor market and strongly lobby for changes in the roads and transport system, motoring industry leaders should be the pioneers of these green initiatives. Dedication to this initiative will demonstrate to the government that change to the current transport grid is necessary to reduce pollution in Sydney,” said Michael.

Interleasing also sees this green transport approach working in other Australian capital cities, such as Melbourne and Brisbane.

² Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries August 2008 data.



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About Interleasing

Interleasing, the Australian fleet management experts, specialise in the financing and management of fleets of cars and other vehicles for Australian companies. Interleasing manage all aspects of fleet vehicles, from buying or leasing cars to running them effectively.

Interleasing is part of the global Masterlease Group, which has over 40 years experience in the leasing market and operates in Europe, Mexico, and Australia (under the Interleasing name).

Interleasing is a Carbon Neutral accredited organisation – they measure, reduce and offset our carbon emissions. Interleasing partners with Carbon Planet to deliver this reduction, and is one of the first fleet management companies to become carbon neutral. Within three years Interleasing is aiming to reduce its emissions by 35 % and they are currently investigating other ways to encourage customers to become green organisations.

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