



MEDIA RELEASE

SENATOR KIM CARR

Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

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GOVERNMENT CONGRATULATES 'GREEN' AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

Senator Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, today congratulated General Motors Holden for taking active steps to help 'green' the Australian automotive industry.

Senator Carr was speaking at Holden's launch of its *Greening the Supply Chain* project, which aims to enhance the efficiency and environmental sustainability of the automotive manufacturing process.

The project is funded through the Federal Government's \$7.2 million *Supplier Capability Development* program which forms part of the Automotive Competitiveness and Investment Scheme. The program reflects the Government's determination to work with industry to put initiatives in place which encourage economic growth that is environmentally sustainable and sensitive.

"We understand the importance of the automotive industry to the Australian economy, but we also appreciate the importance of pursuing economic prosperity without unduly harming the environment.

"This project demonstrates that the Australian automotive industry can move forward in an environmentally sustainable manner without compromising on productivity or profitability," Senator Carr said.

"In the decades to come, immense opportunities for Australian manufacturing will come from high tech, high quality, innovative products that are efficiently produced – in terms of both dollar and environmental costs. Initiatives such as *Greening the Supply Chain* provide the first steps in this process."

The Government's commitment to the long-term viability of the car industry is further evidenced by initiatives such as the \$500 million Green Car Innovation Fund and the Green Car Challenge. These projects will ensure that Australia plays a leading role in the global development and application of green car technology.

Senator Carr also noted that the automotive review is now calling for public submissions and he urged all interested parties to make their views known, including in relation to the operation of the Green Car Innovation Fund.

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