

ELECTRIC MOTOR VEHICLE CONVERSIONS

Statement by Member for Gosnells

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells) [12.57 pm]: It has been my good fortune to have driven to Parliament this week in a locally converted electric car. From firsthand experience, I can vouch that cutting-edge electric motor vehicle conversion skills have been developed right here in Perth. The rising cost of petrol as well as the economic and environmental cost of emissions make a diversification of transport options essential. I pay tribute to the members of the Australian Electric Vehicle Association's Perth branch: its chairman, Dave Waplington; its secretary, Matt Lacey; and the organisation's national president, Tuarn Brown. The AEVA has been getting on with converting cars into reliable electric vehicles. I have to ask: if car conversions can be done in Perth on minuscule budgets, what on earth have the world's major car manufacturers been doing and why have they been so obsessed with the combustion engine? The car I have been driving was converted by Rob Mason and his team at the Kewdale-based EV Works. The car, a converted 1990 BMW, drives beautifully and impresses with its near-silent efficiency. Another Perth company, Daniel Booth's EV Shop, also does excellent conversions. I am very pleased that Western Australian Labor released its electric vehicle discussion paper in January, and I note that in March the state government committed to a trial of 10 electric cars that are to be converted locally. Even if electric cars are charged using today's standard Synergy off-the-grid electricity, they can be more energy and pollution efficient than is the case with their petrol cousins. Electric vehicles are both economically and environmentally viable.