

# PRESS RELEASE

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## NSW Public Servants To Trial Carshare

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NSW public servants are sharing cars with other citizens for the first time this week after the state government began an unprecedented trial of motor vehicles provided by GoGet, Hertz 24/7 and GreenShareCar.

The trial, which started Monday, could save taxpayers millions of dollars if car share services are adopted permanently.

NSW Minister for Finance Dominic Perrottet said the response from within government to cut costs had been "very positive" with five bookings for car shares made on Monday and Tuesday.

"It's great to see the companies enthusiastically embracing this opportunity to help government save money for taxpayers," Mr Perrottet said.

NSW spends more than \$250 million annually on 25,000 vehicles provided by the government agency StateFleet.

Some 5700 of these vehicles are used as pool cars for general business purposes. Greater use of car-sharing could cut the number of pool cars needed, according to the government.

Up to 700 staff from the Office of Finance and Services, who have to date used more than 130 government pool cars, will participate in the trial.

GoGet co-founder Bruce Jeffreys, who has been trying to get the state government to consider car-sharing for eight years, said the trial would reduce travel times for public servants because they could use cars located near their homes.

"Employees will be able to travel from their home to an appointment, which might be quicker and easier than coming into work and travelling back out again," Mr Jeffreys said.

The government will have access to GoGet's 1400 vehicles in NSW, as well as its cars in Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide.

Tristan Sender, GoGet's chief executive, said he hoped that the government would adopt a policy on car sharing after the trial.

"We are part of a powerful trend that sees organisations and individuals demanding increased flexibility in the way they use assets," Mr Sender said.

"If you share a vehicle instead of owning one, all those fixed running costs such as insurance, parking, maintenance, registration, and fleet management are eliminated."

Government demand for GoGet cars is not expected to clash with member demand, Mr Sender said.

"Our personal customers typically use cars on evenings or weekends."

Greg Giraud, general manager of car share for Hertz Australia, said the NSW trial was a "turning point" for car-sharing in Australia.

"It's great to see the government getting on the front foot," Mr Giraud said.

Hertz has 60 cars available for sharing in Sydney and will be adding three cars in regional locations as part of the trial.

Carshare companies have been talking to other governments but NSW is the first state to go ahead with a trial.

The trial includes Office of Finance and Services staff based in the central business district, Parramatta and Baulkham Hills.

It will be extended to employees in Wollongong, Gosford and Bathurst from March 2. GoGet already has cars located near government offices in Sydney's CBD and Parramatta, but has moved some vehicles closer to offices as part of the trial.

If the government adopts car sharing permanently, it is not expected to be extended to services that use specialist vehicles such as the police and paramedics.

As well as cutting costs, car sharing could help change the mindset of public servants, Mr Jeffreys said.

"It turns the car from an entitlement into something that needs to be responsibly used."

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