



## **Self-Drive Hire Cars**

The requirements for self-drive hire cars changed on 1 January 2018 including for use in Canberra.

The use of a self-drive hire car are now subject to principles for the use of public resources contained in the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act). Under the PBR Act, unscheduled commercial transport (including charter and self-drive hire cars) may be used anywhere in Australia subject to the parliamentarian meeting certain principles.

The PBR Act requires that parliamentarians apply the following principles when using self-drive hire cars:

- use public resources for the **dominant purpose** of parliamentary business
- conduct parliamentary business in a way that achieves **value for money**
- meet **any conditions** connected to expenses and allowances they claim
- be **personally responsible and accountable** for the use of public resources for parliamentary business
- be prepared to **publicly justify** the use of public resources in conducting parliamentary business, and
- **act ethically and in good faith** in using, and accounting for the use of, public resources in the conduct of parliamentary business.

From 1 January 2018, where a parliamentarian remains in Canberra over a weekend between adjacent sitting weeks, the hiring of a self-drive hire car needs to be in accordance with the principles prescribed in the PBR Act (i.e. **only** where the **dominant purpose** is for conducting **parliamentary business**).

### **What has changed?**

Under the previous framework, certain self-drive hire car arrangements were able to be used for private purposes during a weekend between adjacent sitting weeks (*Procedural Rule No.1 of 2015 – Car Transport*). This procedural rule ceased on 31 December 2017.



## What is Parliamentary Business?

‘Parliamentary business’ includes activities that fall within **four** streams:

- **Parliamentary duties:** covers activities of the parliamentarian that relate directly to the parliamentarian’s role as a member of Parliament
- **Electorate duties:** activities of the parliamentarian that support or serve their constituents
- **Party political duties:** participating in a formal meeting of the parliamentarian’s political party, participating in the political party or the party’s national, state or territory conference in their capacity as a parliamentarian
- **Official duties:** activities that relate to the parliamentarian’s role as an office holder or Minister.

## Further Information

Please see the [‘Frequently Asked Questions on Self-Drive Hire Cars’ fact sheet](#) available on the IPEA website. This fact sheet is based on queries raised with IPEA’s Travel Advice Team.

A definition of parliamentary business is available in the [Parliamentary Business Resources \(Parliamentary Business\) Determination 2017](#)

Further information on the principles is also available in the [‘What are the Principles?’](#) fact sheet which is on the IPEA website.