



Frequently Asked Questions: Self-Drive Hire Cars

The following questions are based on queries raised with IPEA's Travel Advice Team. The answers provide general guidance only. Please contact IPEA for advice on your specific situation.

Unless otherwise identified, these Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are applicable to the hire of a self-drive vehicle in any location in Australia and it assumes the decision of the parliamentarian to hire the vehicle is consistent with the principles set out in the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (PBR Act).

Question 1:

*Under the previous framework, I hired a self-drive hire vehicle in **Canberra** on the weekend between two sitting weeks. Can I still do this?*

In this circumstance, there is a prima facie presumption that the reason a parliamentarian stays in Canberra and does not return to their home base between sitting weeks is to continue to conduct parliamentary business. Therefore, using the car as set out in Question 2 is consistent with that purpose. Travel outside of Canberra in a self-drive hire car such as going to the coast or the snow for personal leisure would be considered inconsistent with the **dominant purpose** principle.

Question 2:

Can I (or my partner or staff member) use a self-drive hire car to go to a restaurant, shop for food or pick up dry cleaning?

A self-drive hire vehicle must be used for the dominant purpose of conducting parliamentary business. This could reasonably include a parliamentarian travelling to and from the airport, a restaurant, the supermarket, or a medical appointment. This may also include a partner or staff member providing support to prepare for Parliament. This may include arranging dry cleaning or collecting office supplies where these activities support the parliamentarian to conduct their parliamentary business. Some incidental private use of the vehicle may be acceptable, so please contact enquiries@ipea.gov.au to seek advice prior to incurring costs for private use.

More Information?

You can contact IPEA for other travel options that may be available to parliamentarians.

If you have further queries or require specific advice on the use of self-drive hire cars, please contact IPEA on (02) 6215 3000 or enquiries@ipea.gov.au