



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT, AND CITY SERVICES
Ms Jo Clay MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Mark Parton MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into electric vehicle (EV) Adoption in the ACT

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**Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory
Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services
Inquiry into electric vehicle (EV) adoption in the ACT**

Date: 22/08/2022

Details of submitter

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Submission made in my capacity as a private citizen
I do not represent any group or organisation

Text of submission

Summary

A very important requirement for using EVs for longer trips is the network of Fast Chargers. For most Canberrans, the existence of fast chargers in NSW is more important than those in the ACT, as most people can charge at home.

Therefore, to encourage uptake of EVs in Canberra, the ACT should be providing encouragement to install Fast Chargers in more locations in NSW, and putting what pressure they can on existing networks to maintain their chargers better.

Detail

While taking my Nissan Leaf 40kWh EV on a trip up to Northern NSW, I made extensive use of fast chargers. The state of the Fast Charger network in NSW has a considerable effect on residents of the ACT thinking of switching to EV, so it would be of benefit to consider what efforts the ACT can bring to bear to improve this.

In brief:

- The current network of fast chargers is usable, but very sparse.
- There need to be more chargers, and more spread out.
- The existence of a fast charger off the main highways would definitely attract traffic to local businesses.
- More effort needs to be spent on timely maintenance.

My recent experience of driving from Canberra to Ballina (and back) is that there *is* a charging network in place, and particular kudos to the NRMA for providing their network.

However, to be useful they REALLY have to commit to actually maintaining those chargers, and that's not really happening at the moment.

The NRMA charger at Nabiac has been down for at least a fortnight, to my certain knowledge. The only Chademo charger (the Nissan Leaf uses the Chademo plug for fast charging) at Karuah has been down for even longer.

Chargefox, have been notably lax on actual maintenance for some time, probably due to pending sale to Australian Motoring Services.

In any case, there's a very long gap between Newcastle and Taree and that is a major route that you'd expect to be better serviced.

The other point is that, while there IS a usable fast charger network in NSW, right now it is very sparse. There need to be more chargers spread around, so that a single point of failure doesn't risk stranding motorists, and not just on the major highways.

It is worth noting that an EV fast charger will bring in additional business to a town, especially if it is currently bypassed by the highways. Normally, a driver will have at least a coffee while charging. I, for one, would be happier stopping in a small town, and spending my money there, than at yet another MacDonald's at a service centre.

Right now, the NSW government is offering grants to set up fast chargers. Town and shire councils should be seriously taking advantage, because EVs are here, and more of them every day. It would be worth encouraging uptake of this if we have any means of doing so.

In particular, there needs to be a fast charger in Braidwood, because otherwise the climb up from Batemans Bay would make getting all the way back to Canberra a tricky proposition.

Also note there are NO fast chargers in Belconnen or Ginninderra that I am aware of, and there should be.

Suggestions

I feel it would be well worth putting together an advertising campaign pointing out the benefits to regional towns for installing fast chargers. I also feel that offering cash or

other incentives to regional towns for fast charger installation and/or maintenance, possibly in conjunction with the existing NSW grant offer, might be money well spent.

Conclusion

I trust my submission is of value to the committee's consideration, and I would be happy to expand on any aspect of my submission, including by appearance in person, if the committee would find it of assistance.

With thanks,

Robbie Matthews