



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT, AND CITY SERVICES
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Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into electric vehicle (EV) Adoption in the ACT

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Submission to ACT Government about electric vehicles (EVs)

The interest in renewable energy and the use of electric vehicles has grown withing Australia and certainly in the ACT. There is no question people would buy EVs if the vehicles were available at an affordable price and the supporting infrastructure for EVs was similarly available at home and within the community.

That opinion is not based on one person's view but is talked about within my community where I live, it is written about within the ACT, and broadly across Australia. Individuals like myself can make a contribution; we are in the process of putting solar on our roof and have deferred buying our aging two cars, in the hope of switching to EVs, and would support our local politicians foster the growth of EVs.

There are several streams of activities that needs to be addressed with urgency, if the ACT and Australia are not to be badly failed as governments, and more importantly as Australians. Those streams are predicated on the fact that the developed world is already embracing EVs very quickly, and are already structuring their financial strategies to support the manufacture of EVs and their sale within their communities. Unless Australia proactively adopts methods to make Australia and ACT attractive to EV ownership, our choices will be poor and expensive, both in financial cost and to the environment.

What can the ACT do?

- 1) Lead on the introduction of infrastructure for EVs. In most cities in Australia, infrastructure of every sense has lagged housing and business activity; i.e., inadequate roads, public transport, communications.
 - a. The ACT needs to financially support introduction of EV facilities for businesses, apartments, individual houses. That means a proper electricity supply to these locations that a minimum provides safe, reliable trickle charging capability. I live in a village in Kambah in the ACT of 70 townhouses built in the mid-70s that would need to upgrade its grid to accommodate EVs. Furthermore, within that village, fast charging will be needed for some individuals on a need's basis and certainly, will need a number of accessible fast charging facilities located withing the village. The government can provide tangible incentives to my village to support EVs introduction.
 - b. Fast charging facilities must be available within and around the ACT that people can charge quickly whilst doing business, travelling, holidaying. It's no point coming to the ACT if you can't leave voluntarily.
- 2) The ACT already offers financial incentives to assist the purchase of EVs. Continuing or expanding arrangements like stamp duty exemption, registration rebates, car back schemes for diesel/petrol vehicles, home rate reductions for EV owners, interest free loans, must remain a part of the strategies to ensure purchasing EVs. The cost of EVs have to reduce substantially to make an impact.
- 3) A combination of Federal support and restructuring the ACT governments own revenue streams to assist the introduction of EV and facilities. Clearly the cost EVs is going to be a major impost on the government certainly for the next 15 years until technology, infrastructure, and the conversion of EVs becomes an everyday event. Federal government will need to support the states and territories in the challenge. The establishment of a task force to address these challenges are needed quickly
- 4) Increased communication to the community about what is happening outside Australia, the challenges to the ACT, the opportunities, and of course the plans for infrastructure and financial incentives available for EV acquisition/ownership.

My residence and the day-to-day business and pleasure of living here in [REDACTED], and travelling around Australia will be a positive change with the introduction of EVs. We want this to happen as a community and for our environment. I thank you for the opportunity to contribute and wish you well with your deliberations.

Greg Redfern
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