



EAGA

EASTERN ALLIANCE FOR
GREENHOUSE ACTION
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The Secretary
Economy and Infrastructure Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Online: electricvehicles@parliament.vic.gov.au

21 November 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Inquiry into Electric Vehicles

The Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Electric Vehicles (EVs).

EAGA is a formal Alliance of eight councils in Melbourne's East, including:

- City of Boroondara
- Glen Eira City Council
- Knox City Council
- Maroondah City Council
- City of Monash
- City of Stonnington
- Whitehorse City Council
- Yarra Ranges Council

EAGA is committed to delivering mitigation and adaptation projects and advocating for initiatives that support sustainable, low carbon communities. To achieve these goals, EAGA councils (and local governments across the State) are supporting the uptake of EVs through the adoption of EVs in council fleets, installing publicly charging infrastructure and engaging with regional transport providers.

This work comes on the back of previous collaborative EV trials lead by the State and Local Government sectors, particularly in the pilots conducted between 2012-14. However, the maturity of the EV sector now demands a more substantive response from all levels of government to ensure the transition to a lower emissions transport sector can occur in an economically efficient and equitable manner.

We therefore urge the State Government to consider the following recommendations:

- Development of a state wide EV strategy which sets out a clear vision, principles and ambitious targets for government and private sectors to ensure, infrastructure, industry and communities are informed and prepared for EV transition. The strategy should include a stocktake of existing and planned charging infrastructure, scenario modelling on future uptake and charging requirements and the determination of optimum charging standards. The strategy should include the development of incentives to stimulate uptake, facilitate provision of charging infrastructure and drive job creation in allied EV industries. The strategy should be supported by a governance structure defining the roles and responsibilities of industry, Local Government and relevant State Government agencies in providing ongoing leadership and coordination of the strategy's implementation.
- Give adequate consideration to the broader benefits of EVs, particularly on health from the reduction in noxious emissions, and the ability of the technology to deliver on the commitments within The National Clean Air Agreement (2015). These benefits should also be accounted for in the State's work with the Federal Government in determining the regulatory impacts of new vehicle fuel efficiency standards.
- Provide clear guidance within the Victorian Planning Provisions (VPP) to eliminate the need for individual councils to pursue amendments to their own planning schemes. This will reduce the administrative burden on local governments and ensure consistency for providers charging infrastructure operating across multiple jurisdictions. Agreement on the roles of government in providing public charging infrastructure will be a necessary first step in implementing these changes.
- Provision of incentives to support the uptake of EVs, including registration and stamp duty discounts, tax breaks and the free use charging stations on public land.
- Direct support for electric bus transport service trials, particularly in regional and low socio economic areas. These trials should seek to replicate successful European models where shuttle services of small electric busses run between key destinations and major roads, coupled with app based 'on-demand' services to bring users into the network.

Should you have queries or questions relating to this letter, please contact Scott McKenry, EAGA Executive Officer on scott.mckenry@maroonodah.vic.go.au or 03 9298 4250.

Kind regards,



Cr Josh Fergus
Executive Committee Chair
Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action
Councillor, City of Monash



This submission has been approved through EAGA's formal governance structure as described in the EAGA Memorandum of Understanding 2017-21. The submission may not have been formally considered by individual member councils.