



6 February 2025

The Hon. Andrew Hastie MP
Member for Canning
Unit 2 / 61, Sutton Street
Mandurah, WA, 6210

Dear Mr Hastie,

As the principal association representing the interests of electric vehicle (EV) owners and enthusiasts, the Australian Electric Vehicle Association (AEVA) is keen to understand your views, and the Liberal Party's policies on the overall electrification of transport in Australia, in the context of your party's pledge to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2050.

The electorate of Canning appears to be an example of an outer suburban region where EVs are already making a big difference to the lives of residents who are dependent on a private automobile. With limited alternatives to driving, an EV ends up as the cheapest, and most convenient option for getting around. Progress to date on EV policy has been positive, albeit slower than we would like. If the government were to change after the 2025 election, we are keen to know if the Liberal Party will continue to support policies which advance the full electrification of transport.

The AEVA believes transport electrification is essential for Australia, as this will:

- address fuel security and limit our dependence on imported liquid fuels,
- deliver significant benefits in public health through reduced air and noise pollution, and
- serve to limit greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector when vehicles are powered from low and zero emission sources of electricity.

We are aware of the Coalition's policies on the electricity sector, particularly the push to embrace nuclear power, necessitating an extension of coal and gas-fired power for the next decade. However, we are unsure if the Coalition has outlined policies designed to enable reaching Net Zero emissions specifically for the transport sector.

The policies your party took to the last election included a "30% by 2030" EV sales target, funding for charging infrastructure, and low interest loans for the purchase of EVs by businesses. These are all policies we support, but believe they can be expanded to make faster progress.

Given that 2050 is just 25 years away, and that a considerable proportion of Australians retain their privately owned cars for 15 years, we urge the Liberal Party to retain all aspects of the New Vehicle Efficiency Standard (NVES) and extend this mechanism beyond its current cut-off date of 2029, to 2035 when all new vehicles should be zero-emissions in operation. No further carve-outs or exceptions should be made.

On another energy related matter, which we understand is of great interest to you, is that successive Australian governments have not addressed the security challenge of Australia's liquid fuel supplies. Analysis shows that Australia's \$50 billion of imported liquid fuels are moved using highly vulnerable shipping routes each year. The nation's



defence leadership has identified this as a major strategic risk to Australia. Full electrification of transport offers a clear pathway for mitigating this risk, providing another compelling reason for this transition to be supported.

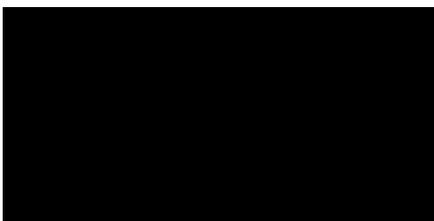
Many Australian households are experiencing financial stress, and the cost of living will be a major election issue. An outsized component of the household budget for most families is their expenditure on fuel and vehicle maintenance. As the upfront cost of new EVs continues to fall and high quality second-hand EVs are now even more affordable, households will be looking to replace their petrol or diesel vehicle with an electric option. Policies which make this step easier and more accessible will be welcomed.

Guided by our members feedback, AEVA has determined the following policies should be a priority at this federal election. We urge the next Australian Government to:

- extend the New Vehicle Efficiency Standard (NVES) to the year 2035, by ensuring that all new light vehicles are zero emission by 2035, and by broadening the standard to include heavy vehicles,
- undertake that any future road user charge will be universal - applied to all vehicles, not just EVs - and be based on vehicle mass as well as distance travelled,
- work with state and local governments to continue to build a well-planned, reliable network of public EV charging infrastructure with binding reliability expectations,
- invest in both interstate rail infrastructure and highway charging infrastructure for electric heavy goods vehicles,
- push for harmonised "right to charge" legislation, so that EV drivers and riders can charge their car or bike at their place of residence or in shared workplaces, and,
- through education campaigns, address rampant misinformation about EVs, particularly claims about the frequency and causes of EV fires.

We are very keen to meet with you to discuss any of these matters, particularly Australia's liquid fuel insecurity.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Chris Jones
President
Australian Electric Vehicle Association