



7<sup>th</sup> April, 2016

Vehicle Emissions Working Group  
The Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development  
GPO Box 594  
Canberra ACT 2601

### **Submission: Vehicle Emissions Discussion Paper**

As the owner of two fully electric cars, a Nissan Leaf (2012) and a Tesla Model S, I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the Vehicle Emissions Discussion Paper from the perspective of an electric car owner.

In light of the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to reduce toxic particulate matter in the atmosphere, the benefits of electric vehicles cannot be overestimated. The transport sector contributes significantly to overall greenhouse gas emissions and pollution.

#### **Benefits of electric vehicles:**

- They have zero tailpipe emissions.
- They can be charged with 100% renewable energy. Many current electric car owners power their cars using rooftop solar or 100% Greenpower.
- They offer convenience. They can be charged while you are at home, at the shops or at the office. For example, it takes less than 7 seconds to plug in when you get home, the car re-charges overnight, and you leave home every day with a fully 'fuelled' car.
- You never have to stop to refuel at a petrol station again.
- They are cheap to run and maintain. Fuel costs can be cut by up to 70%.
- They have instant acceleration and power and excellent handling (due to their low centre of gravity and distributed weight).
- They are quiet and smooth to drive, almost eliminating noise pollution.

There needs to be a nationally coordinated approach to promote electric vehicles and their uptake, in particular providing incentives to reduce the upfront cost of electric cars. Surveys and overseas experience have found that the upfront cost of electric cars is a major deterrent for many people.

#### **What incentives could Australia provide to encourage the uptake of electric vehicles?**

- Zero tax for zero emissions. Currently cars below a defined threshold of fuel efficiency attract a lower effective rate of luxury car tax. Cars that generate zero emissions should attract zero luxury car tax.

- Exemptions from stamp duty in all states and territories.
- Reduced registration fees in all states and territories.
- Access to transit (priority) lanes for electric cars.
- Priority parking, free parking and/or reduced CBD parking fees for electric cars.
- Reduction or elimination of state/city based car parking tax in CBD for car parking spots that are 100% dedicated to EVs. This will encourage landlords and car park operators to install charging infrastructure and by increasing the amount of charging spots will encourage greater EV use. Additionally, as there will be a reduced number of car spots for the dominant Internal Combustion Vehicle (ICE ) user, it will encourage ICE drivers to utilize public transport or drive EVs.
- Require EV drivers to use Greenpower, whether derived from home solar or purchased, which will stimulate investment in renewable clean energy as the demand for Greenpower will increase.
- Provide packaged incentive for individuals to install solar coupled to an electric vehicle charger. EV recharging can align to solar PV activity and will contribute to grid/generation stability through the matching of the supply of solar energy and the demand from EV recharging.
- Provide an electricity rebate for all Greenpower, whether derived from home solar or purchased, used to recharge EVs during the offpeak period. This rebate will encourage greater use during offpeak period and stimulate demand for Greenpower and more renewable energy investment.
- Subsidise the installation of public electric charging for on-street car share.
- Provide education and information on electric vehicles.

The rapid transition to electric vehicles needs to be accompanied by the urgent transformation of Australia's energy system and electricity grid to 100% renewable energy, and the rapid rollout of rooftop solar. This transformation should have been well under way by now, given we have known that we face a climate emergency for over two decades.

Electric vehicles offer a cleaner and more efficient form of transport. As the rest of the world moves to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions in all sectors and attempts to keep global warming below the 1.5 degree Celsius guardrail, Australia must rapidly catch-up. Australia's current inaction in urgently reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector risks us becoming the dumping ground for petrol and diesel cars that other countries will not want.

Yours sincerely,

Sally Perini  
Electric car owner