



Australian Electric Vehicle Association Inc.
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Date: 15th January 2018
For immediate release.

Re: ABC article on electric vehicles and road funding

On behalf of the Australian Electric Vehicle Association (AEVA) we would like to issue a statement in response to the article on the ABC website regarding electric vehicles 'breaking the roads'.

The AEVA is a not-for-profit, volunteer-run association dedicated to promoting electric vehicles (EVs) and electric propulsion in all forms, and accelerating the transition away from liquid fossil fuels. We note that the ABC news article headlined "Electric cars are breaking our roads" is deliberately eye-catching, despite the content of the article being very much in line with what the AEVA has noted for years – that is:

1. That roads benefit all Australians, even those who don't own vehicles.
2. Roads cost enormous sums of money which must be sourced from somewhere.
3. Drivers of EVs benefit from these roads, and it is fair that they contribute to their ongoing maintenance in some way.

While EV drivers do not pay the fuel excise currently imposed on petrol and diesel vehicles (equating to 4.2 c per km, on average) EVs cost more to purchase upfront; attracting higher stamp duties and taxes. This easily compensates for the revenue shortfall, at least in the short term. More significantly, the lack of toxic tailpipe emissions contributes to cleaner air in our urban environments – something the internal combustion engine (ICE) is not sufficiently penalised for.

The AEVA believes that this revenue anomaly is entirely fair in the context of EVs on Australia's roads, particularly as they represent such a small (but growing) component of the vehicle fleet. Electric vehicle purchase prices are expected to equal ICE vehicles by 2020, at which point the initial cost impost will dissolve. If a road use charge must be introduced, it should be less than the current excise (~1c/km) and *applied to all vehicles*, including ICE vehicles. The fuel excise should remain in place as a disincentive to continue driving ICE vehicles, while revenue collected from both sources should be directed towards hastening the transition to EVs as a priority.

Sincerely,

Greg Partridge, President, AEVA

Chris Jones, Secretary, AEVA.