

## Tasmanian Branch of the Australian Electric Vehicle Association.

The AEVA represents approximately 100 members in Tasmania, only some of whom own electric vehicles. This submission is an attempt to highlight some of the issues seen as important to Tasmanians, and those aspiring to an EV.

### Benefits

- Tourism is a major employer in Tasmania, and many people are attracted by the relatively unspoiled wilderness in the state. With Tasmania's high percentage of renewably-sourced electricity, and the availability of medium-range electric cars, "emissions-free" self-drive holidays become possible. This concept, however, cannot be practical until comprehensive charging infrastructure is installed throughout the state.
- Tasmania is at the end of a long supply line for petroleum fuels. The widespread uptake of EVs would mean that Tasmanians would not be as vulnerable to disruptions in that industry. Electricity can be generated locally via a multitude of sources, and thus is inherently resilient.
- The lower running costs of EVs mean that individuals and businesses would save money outright over the life of their vehicles. Further to this, money spent on 'fuel' would go into the local electricity businesses Aurora, Tas Networks and Hydro Tasmania.
- EVs have already been manufactured in Tasmania. The local company Richardson Devine Marine recently built a hybrid tourist ferry for the RACT to operate in Macquarie Harbour. Further opportunities in this sector are likely as EV uptake increases.

### Suggestions

- Build EV awareness into government grants. For instance, include advice that providing for EVs in a grant submission will enhance the submission's chance of success.
- Charging infrastructure around the state should be encouraged. This has begun in a small way via grants provided by [Tas Networks](#) and the [Tasmanian Government](#). Without more substantial support, charging infrastructure will be limited to the most profitable areas, thus excluding EVs from rural regions and places of seasonal tourism. Once charging infrastructure reaches a critical point, a major perceived barrier to EV ownership will be removed. In Tasmania, this critical point is not a large number of chargers.
- A big factor that gets people interested in buying an EV is when they get to test-drive one. Sponsoring test-drive events, such as the ones organised by the AEVA, would help accelerate the uptake of EVs.