



Brisbane  
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Brisbane, QLD 4000

Sydney  
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Sydney, NSW 2000



4 March 2021

Dear Senate

**RE: Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Economics on the COAG Reform Fund Amendment (No Electric Vehicle Taxes) Bill 2020**

Evie Networks welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Economics.

Evie Networks (Evie) is an Australian company building a nationwide network of fast and ultra-fast electric vehicle charging stations. Evie is owned by the St Baker Energy Innovation Fund, and with the support of ARENA, has up to \$100M of funding to build this network. In addition, we are also deploying metropolitan-based electric vehicle (EV) fast-charging networks in the major capital cities focusing on supporting mobility-as-a-service (MaaS) solutions.

As detailed in the PwC report "Recharging the Economy"<sup>1</sup>, there are significant economic, social and environmental benefits that come from the electrification of our transportation sector. Electrification of passenger vehicles would add \$2.9 billion to real GDP, increase net employment by more than 13,000 jobs and reduce emissions by 18 million tonnes by 2030, the equivalent to taking 8 million petrol vehicles off the road. Furthermore, a recent study by the Electric Vehicle Council of Australia and Asthma Australia, estimates that air pollution from Internal combustion Engine (ICE) motor vehicles kills over 1,700 Australians per year<sup>2</sup>.

Australia's transport emissions are around 20% of our greenhouse pollution and EV technologies are essential for Australia to fulfil its commitments under the Paris Agreement. The lack of a national policy on the electrification of transport with clear targets has set Australia behind the rest of the world. Further, EVs made up only 0.75% of new car sales in Australia in 2020, well below other OECD countries<sup>3</sup>. The introduction of road user charges for this emerging industry represents a handbrake on the prospect of EV take-up.

We therefore support the overriding purpose of this Bill which is to prevent the States introducing road blocks to the take-up of EVs. Evie Networks strongly urges the Australian Government, including Senators considering this bill, to lead on the development of a fair, transparent, future road pricing scheme that does not unfairly penalise EV ownership. The Australian Government should ensure that any State Government that introduces additional taxes on EVs, must supplement with financial incentives and supporting policies that promote the EV take-up or otherwise is held accountable and penalized as per the mechanism presented in the bill this committee is considering.

Rather than reiterating the issues and arguments, we also support the submission and positions made by the Electric Vehicle Council of Australia and urge the Senate to consider these matters to ensure Australians are not left behind and Australia can fulfil its commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Yours Sincerely,

p.p.



Chris Mills  
CEO Evie Networks

<sup>1</sup> [Recharging-the-economy.pdf \(electricvehiclecouncil.com.au\)](https://electricvehiclecouncil.com.au/recharging-the-economy.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://electricvehiclecouncil.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/EVC-Cleaner-and-Safer-Roads-for-NSW\\_V3-Single.pdf](https://electricvehiclecouncil.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/EVC-Cleaner-and-Safer-Roads-for-NSW_V3-Single.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [EVC-State-of-EVs-2020-report.pdf \(electricvehiclecouncil.com.au\)](https://electricvehiclecouncil.com.au/evc-state-of-evs-2020-report.pdf)