



Media release

For immediate release

Strengthen the New Vehicle Efficiency Standard: AEVA

Australia's key EV consumer group, the Australian Electric Vehicle Association (AEVA) has called on the next Federal Government to maintain the New Vehicle Efficiency Standard (NVES) and set stronger targets beyond 2029. The scheme already excludes some popular 'light' commercial vehicles (under 4.5 tonnes) for administrative reasons, while emissions targets for many utes and SUVs were relaxed.

"There is a review scheduled for 2026 to determine the targets from 2030 to 2035. Given the path we're on, this will require some bold action", said Dr Chris Jones, AEVA National President.

The Climate Change Authority's Sector Pathways Review found that Australia will likely need to fully decarbonise the passenger vehicle fleet by 2050 to meet Australia's net zero target, and allow for some emissions in other more challenging modes of transport like aviation.

"We're at the business end now", said Dr Jones. "Given that some cars remain on the road for 20 years or more, it is critical that all new vehicles are zero emission by 2035 at the latest. Winding back NVES would leave Australian consumers with less choice, and more costly cars to run".

The AEVA also calls for mandatory emissions standards for new, road-going, heavy vehicles (over 4.5 tonnes) of 56 gCO₂ per tonne-kilometre - in line with EU fleet averages - as soon as practical. This standard should be progressively tightened each year until all new heavy vehicles sold are zero-emissions in operation by 2040. This will require other supporting policies, such as facilitating high speed electric truck charging and even battery swapping solutions for high demand routes.

Dr Jones says policy certainty is key. "There is simply no point having intermediate targets if they don't lead to the desired outcome. At present, there is nothing to link 2029 with our 2050 goal. The only way to fully decarbonise the whole road transport fleet by 2050 is through electrification."

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About AEVA

The Australian Electric Vehicle Association (AEVA) LTD is a volunteer-run, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the cause of switching Australia's transport networks to electric drive as quickly as possible. Formed after the oil price shocks of 1973, the AEVA is the longest continuously running EV society in the world. We represent all EV users and enthusiasts; current and prospective.

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