



Media release

For immediate release

EV owners seek 'the right to charge'

EV consumer group, the Australian Electric Vehicle Association (AEVA) wants to see robust, harmonised legislation, facilitated by the Federal Government, to enshrine the 'right to charge' an EV at a person's home. Where EV drivers have their own off-street parking space, even in shared complexes and apartment parking levels, they expect to be able to charge their EV where it is convenient and affordable.

"There are no good reasons why this should not be permitted by default by an owners corporation. Such rights are common throughout Europe, Scandinavia and parts of America" said Chris Jones, AEVA National President. Efforts to invoke fire safety as grounds for refusal are simply not supported by the evidence. Insurance industry bodies have concluded that EV charging represents a 'very low' fire risk. A body corporate managing strata or multi-owner residences should not be able to unreasonably prevent an EV-owning resident from installing and/or using an EV charge point, especially where individual electricity metering is available, or easily added.

The ACT's Unit Titles (Management) Act already disallows any owners corporation rule that unreasonably prohibits or restricts the installation or operation of sustainability infrastructure such as EV charging. "This provides a model for the rest of the country", said Dr Jones.

Electric scooter and e-bike fires are however more common. The AEVA is keen to see greater uptake of these personal EVs, but consumers should be cautious of low-quality products built to a price. "Only equipment carrying the Regulatory Compliance Mark should be used, and charging of e-bikes and e-scooters really ought to be done where the risk of fire propagation is low. Ideally, apartments should have a dedicated e-bike and e-scooter charging area", said Jones.

AEVA strongly supports the adoption of standards and procedures that will improve the safety of first responders and the public in the event of a fire, but opposes unnecessarily onerous regulations which hinder the installation of charging equipment or the adoption of EVs.

Ends

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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