



Media release

For immediate release

Road User Charging must be Universal

The Australian Electric Vehicle Association (AEVA) has once again insisted that any future road user charge (RUC) must be universal, and not single out EVs. Federal shadow minister for transport, Bridget McKenzie recently indicated that some form of charge for electric vehicle drivers would be considered should they win office next week, and that low- and middle-income households were 'subsidising EV drivers' from wealthier postcodes.

Dr Chris Jones, National President of the AEVA says that road user charging is not a new idea, and in fact the AEVA welcomes the discussion. Provided it's universal, and includes the vehicle's mass.

"A universal, mass \times distance road user charge is a straightforward and fair way to address the costs associated with road use. It should apply to all vehicles, particularly trucks, as they're responsible for the bulk of road damage", Dr Jones said.

Including vehicle weight accounts for the relative inefficiency of heavier vehicles, and would drive sales of smaller, lighter vehicles. Jones says that while some EVs are heavier than an equivalent petrol or diesel vehicle, they can hardly be singled out for road damage, or leading the decline in fuel excise revenue. He says reform is necessary, but it must be fiscally responsible too.

"If declining fuel excise revenue is a problem, we probably shouldn't cut it in half," he said.

A universal, mass \times distance road user charge would need to be led by the Federal Government and administered through state/territory transport departments, with revenue redistributed proportionally for road maintenance. Dr Jones says EVs will still end up being cheaper to own and operate, and are the lowest cost option for households who rely on cars for their transport needs.

"EV drivers recognise the need for road costing reforms. We just want to ensure that it's fair, doesn't discourage EV ownership, and sets the nation up for the future."

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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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