



Media release

For immediate release

Road User Charging must be Universal

EV consumer group, the Australian Electric Vehicle Association (AEVA) has once again insisted that any future road user charge (RUC) must be mass-multiplied, and not single out EVs. The federal Treasurer has indicated a RUC might form part of broader taxation reforms, citing declining fuel excise revenue as more efficient vehicles enter the market.

Dr Chris Jones, National President of the AEVA says that road user charging is not a new idea, and the AEVA would welcome being part of the discussion. But if the goal is to encourage EV uptake while addressing the limitations of fuel excise, the RUC must be universal, and include vehicle weight.

“A universal, mass × distance road user charge would serve the same role as fuel excise - a pay-by-use system which is proportional to the impact driving has on society and infrastructure. EV drivers don’t have a problem with it - we just want to ensure the system is fair” says Jones.

Including vehicle mass accounts for the relative inefficiency of heavier vehicles, and would help drive sales of smaller, lighter vehicles regardless of fuel source. It also addresses the inequity of a flat per kilometer rate, where a motorcycle would pay the same rate as a 2.5 tonne SUV, despite causing substantially less damage to infrastructure.

Dr Jones says fuel excise could remain in place as a disincentive to drive a petrol or diesel vehicle.

“EVs aren’t contributing to air pollution and related respiratory disease. That’s a huge public health saving right there” he said.

AEVA maintains the rate must be set by the federal government, while state and territory transport departments could administer it. States would retain the revenue for road maintenance.

“EVs still end up being cheaper to own and operate, and remain the lowest-cost option for car-dependent households. This is a golden opportunity to reform road-related revenue, so let’s get it right” says Jones.

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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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