



Media release

For immediate release 11 August 2025

Road User Charging must be Universal

EV consumer group the Australian Electric Vehicle Association (AEVA) is convinced that future road user charge (RUC) must be mass-multiplied, and not single out EVs. The federal Treasurer has commenced design of this policy with industry, citing declining fuel excise revenue as more efficient vehicles enter the market. States such as New South Wales and Western Australia have already announced a future RUC dependent on EV market share.

AEVA National President Dr Chris Jones says that road user charging is not a new idea, and the AEVA would welcome EV users being part of the discussion for designing such a charge. 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 \times 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, 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 diseases. 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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