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Media release (images on page 2)

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Re: Community funded Esperance to Perth Electric Highway one step closer!

The first 50 kW DC fast charger on the community-funded Esperance to Perth electric highway was installed and commissioned yesterday in Lake Grace, 325 km from Perth.

The Tritium charger was installed by Gemtek Automation on Tuesday after works were completed by Western Power over the weekend. Installation costs were kindly covered by the Shire of Lake Grace, who backed the charger right from the start.

Institutional donor for the purchase of this charger, [C D Dodd Scrap Metals](#), were there to use the charger for the first time – charging the company Ioniq before heading back to Forrestfield. Cobalt donor Harald Murphy was also there to test the new piece of critical infrastructure; charging his Tesla Model X before returning to Perth.

This charger is roughly halfway between Perth and Esperance and is critical for helping people in the Wheatbelt regions of WA to get to and from Perth. It is one of three chargers needed to complete the journey, with a charger for Ravensthorpe already purchased while a suitable site is being prepared.

“It’s wonderful to see this community-funded project start to come to fruition, and make EVs accessible to rural Western Australia” said Chris Jones, chair of the AEVA WA branch and national secretary. “It’s crazy that we need to fund critical transport infrastructure this way, but we’re tired of waiting for government to step up. We’ll do what we need to do until then”.

The WA state government has been sitting on a [report commissioned by the WA EV Infrastructure Working Group](#) for almost two years, which explicitly outlines the low cost of a seed network for the state – under \$30 million would cater for the needs of a 1\$ EV fleet, or roughly 22,000 EVs.

The fundraiser campaign can be found at <https://chuffed.org/project/evhwy>

The [Australian Electric Vehicle Association](#) is a volunteer-run not-for-profit organisation with branches in all states and territories, dedicated to transitioning Australia’s transport sector to electric power since 1973.



Eva Maria Rohltla from C D Dodd charges at the Lake Grace DC fast charger



C D Dodd Scrap Metal Recyclers were key donors for the Lake Grace DC fast charger