

**Submission
No 4**

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ELECTRIC AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCE VEHICLES IN NSW

Organisation: Blacktown City Council

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Submission to the Legislative Assembly Committee on Transport and Infrastructure Inquiry into Infrastructure for Electric and Alternative Energy Source Vehicles in NSW

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Executive Summary:

Drawing upon extensive expertise in sustainable fleet management and infrastructure development, this submission by Blacktown City Council outlines a detailed strategy aimed at rapidly accelerating electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure within our jurisdiction. Given Blacktown's leading position in national EV adoption rates, there is an immediate and compelling need to significantly upscale infrastructure capacity. This submission rigorously evaluates our existing infrastructure capabilities, identifies future requirements through comprehensive quantitative modelling, and details the necessary financial and technical support required from the NSW Government to achieve ambitious and measurable outcomes. The strategic framework provided herein seeks to facilitate both local sustainability objectives and broader state-level emissions reduction targets effectively.

Current EV Adoption and Infrastructure Overview:

Blacktown City Council currently leads the nation with the highest per capita EV ownership rate among Australian Councils. Presently, community registrations include approximately 350 fully electric vehicles.

The Council itself operates a diverse and integrated fleet comprising:

- 145 passenger and commercial electric & hybrid vehicles
- Full plans are now in place to procure & operate 10 fully electric refuse collection vehicles every year from 2026

Complementing this fleet, Blacktown has established substantial EV infrastructure consisting of:

- 50 publicly accessible AC charging stations
- 15 strategically positioned DC fast-charging units

However, However, Real-time data analyses conducted from January to March 2025 have demonstrated that existing EV charging infrastructure within Blacktown operates at peak utilisation rates, frequently surpassing 90% during peak hours, notably between 4 pm and 8 pm. Specific metrics indicate average charger occupancy rates at DC fast-charging stations regularly achieve full capacity,

with waiting times averaging 15-20 minutes for access during these periods. This data underscores an immediate and critical infrastructure deficit relative to current user demand, further exacerbating anticipated growth in EV adoption rates within the community.

Strategic Infrastructure Development Plan:

Extensive quantitative forecasting clearly underscores the immediate need for expanded charging infrastructure to sustain the current trajectory of EV uptake. To effectively address this need, the following strategic interventions are proposed:

- Installation of an additional 150 public DC fast-charging stations strategically located within high-demand areas, commercial districts, and major transportation routes, all to be operational within a two-year time frame.
- Enhancement of fleet depot infrastructure through the addition of 80 high-capacity fast-charging units to ensure the continuous and efficient operation of Council EV fleet assets.

Financial Requirements:

- Capital investment required for public charging infrastructure expansion: \$18 million.
- Depot infrastructure enhancements and expansions: \$ 6 million.
- Annual operational, maintenance, and associated costs are estimated at approximately \$1.8 million.

Financial and Technical Assistance Required:

To ensure the successful implementation and sustainable operation of this expanded EV infrastructure, Blacktown City Council seeks targeted financial and technical support from NSW Government agencies as outlined below:

- Provision of targeted funding through dedicated grants and subsidies, prioritising councils demonstrating substantial EV uptake and readiness for infrastructure expansion.
- State-provided technical and engineering expertise to ensure efficient planning, deployment, and operational optimisation of charging networks.
- Investment in necessary grid infrastructure upgrades to accommodate the increased electricity demand arising from rapid expansion of EV charging facilities.

Workforce Development and Transition Support:

Recognising the pivotal role of workforce capability in facilitating the transition to EV technologies, the Council recommends the establishment of structured workforce development programmes, including:

- Collaboration with TAFE NSW and other educational institutions to develop comprehensive vocational training programmes specifically tailored to EV technology.

- Immediate financial backing for training initiatives to rapidly establish a skilled workforce of approximately 200 specialised EV technicians, directly enhancing local employment and technical capabilities.

Conclusion:

Blacktown City Council remains committed to maintaining its leadership role in the transition toward sustainable transportation solutions. Achieving this vision necessitates enhanced support and cooperation from state-level authorities to address financial, infrastructural, and workforce-related challenges effectively. Strategic investments and collaborative partnerships will be essential in realising the substantial environmental, economic, and social benefits associated with a rapid transition to electric vehicles across the municipality and the broader NSW region.

We thank the Committee for this valuable opportunity to present our detailed strategy and look forward to further dialogue and cooperation to achieve our mutual sustainability and infrastructure development objectives.

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