

**Submission
No 7**

**INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ELECTRIC AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCE
VEHICLES IN NSW**

Name: Mr Ken Mcleod

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**NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**INQUIRY INTO INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ELECTRIC AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCE
VEHICLES IN NSW**

SUBMISSION FROM KEN MCLEOD 'BLOCKING OF EV CHARGING STATIONS'

To introduce myself. I am a resident of NSW, but use an ACT postal address for privacy. I have been an EV owner since November 2022.

I make this submission in relation to the Terms of Reference:

c) use of existing infrastructure and measures to ensure a competitive market, including 'ring fencing' policies

e) any other related matters.

INTRODUCTION:

I make this submission in relation to the establishment and use of EV charging stations. The NSW Government, local councils and private industry are to be congratulated on the extent of the program to install EV charging stations throughout NSW. The number and spread of those is quite impressive, considering how early we are in the transition from the Internal Combustion Engine, ICE, to Electric Vehicles, EVs.

However there is one issue that is hampering the transition:

Blocking of EV charging stations.

To an EV owner like myself, there is no doubt that there is a significant antipathy to EVs in the community, fanned and inflamed by conservative mainstream media ¹ for political purposes, and politicians.²

¹ ABC Media Watch **Anti-EV campaign** 22 Jul 2024
<https://www.abc.net.au/mediawatch/episodes/evs/104128046>

² AFP Fact Check <https://factcheck.afp.com/doc.afp.com.328N2RY> and
<https://www.aap.com.au/factcheck/does-making-an-electric-car-use-twice-the-emissions-of-a-standard-model/>

That antipathy is made evident by aggressive driving by ICE vehicles, vandalism and blocking of EV charging stations. My submission concerns blocking of charging locations by both ICE and EV drivers.

This is extremely common. Legislation exists to cover that, particularly the NSW Road Rules 2014:

203C Stopping in a parking area for the charging of electric-powered vehicles

(1) A driver must not stop in a parking area for the charging of electric-powered vehicles unless—

(a) the driver's vehicle is an electric-powered vehicle, and

(b) the electric-powered vehicle is plugged in to an external source of electricity.

Maximum penalty—20 penalty units.

(2) A parking area for the charging of an electric-powered vehicle is a length or area of a road—

(a) to which a permissive parking sign displaying an electric-powered vehicle symbol and the words "while charging" applies, or

(b) to which an electric-powered vehicle charging parking sign applies, or

(c) indicated by a road marking that consists of, or includes, an electric-powered vehicle symbol and the words "while charging".

The use of the word 'road' may be contributing to the problem. Many recalcitrant ICE drivers believe that the above EV charging legislation does not apply to private or Council parking areas. In fact it does.

The NSW Road Rules 2014 say in Division 1 that:

'11 Rules apply to vehicles and road users on roads and road related areas

(1) These Rules apply to vehicles and road users on roads and road related areas.

'Road' is defined in rule 12, as:

(1) A road is an area that is open to or used by the public and is developed for, or has as one of its main uses, the driving or riding of motor vehicles.

Road related area is defined in rule 13, as:

(1) A road related area is any of the following—

....

(d) an area that is not a road and that is open to or used by the public for driving, riding **or parking vehicles**. (My emphasis.)

The NSW Road User Handbook does not help much. It does not make it clear that parking restrictions apply in 'road related areas.' On page 159, in the section titled "restricted parking" it says:

Restricted parking

You can stop or park in some places that have restricted times or conditions.

Restrictions may be on a sign or marked on the road. Check carefully to avoid a parking fine or having your vehicle towed.

'You can stop or park in some places that have restricted times or condition.'

'Restrictions may be on a sign or marked on the road...'

Again the use of the word 'road.' There's no help with what is a 'road,' and no definition is shown in the Handbook of a 'road.'

The relevant signs are shown in the Handbook on page 159.

Electric vehicle parking



You can only park an electric vehicle.

Electric vehicles can only park while charging.



You can only park an electric vehicle on the days of the week and during the hours shown on the sign.

Electric vehicles can only park while charging on the days of the week and during the hours shown on the sign.

That antipathy to EVs, ignorance of the Rules and downright selfishness has led to a plague of EV charging station blocking; (I am embarrassed to say that includes some EV drivers.) Such is the problem that a Facebook page has been set up '*ICEHoles and EVHoles Australia*.'

³People can vent their frustrations with irresponsible and selfish people, and publicise them with pictures like those that are at the end of this submission in Appendix 1, starting at page

³ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/343306533237130>

5. In the hundreds of posts of photos of cars blocking EV charging stations, I have seen a photo of a penalty only once. Committee members are invited to see that Facebook page.

It seems that no-one is prepared to do anything about it. Granted, some EV charging companies charge idle fees. Tesla charges \$0.50 per minute if you overstay, and this increases to \$1 per minute when a station is at 100 per cent occupancy,⁴ but that applies only to EVs that are plugged in and not charging, not to selfish ICE and unplugged EV drivers.

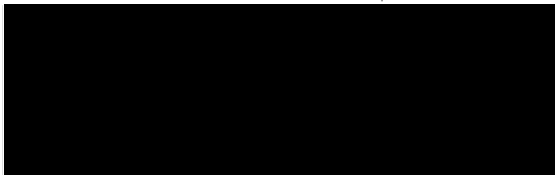
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

1. The blocking of EV charging stations is very common, especially by ICE drivers.
2. That blocking is caused by selfishness and ignorance of the relevant legislation.
3. The relevant legislation and the NSW Road User Handbook do not make the requirements clear.
4. Regulatory authorities such as local councils are not enforcing the legislation.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. The NSW Road User Handbook should be amended to make it clear that legislation, including parking restrictions applying to EV charging stations, applies to all 'road related areas' including all public and private car parks.
2. The Committee ask the Minister for Local Government to remind all local authorities and councils that they are responsible for enforcing parking restrictions, including in 'road related areas' and for collecting the relevant fines from selfish drivers blocking EV charging stations.

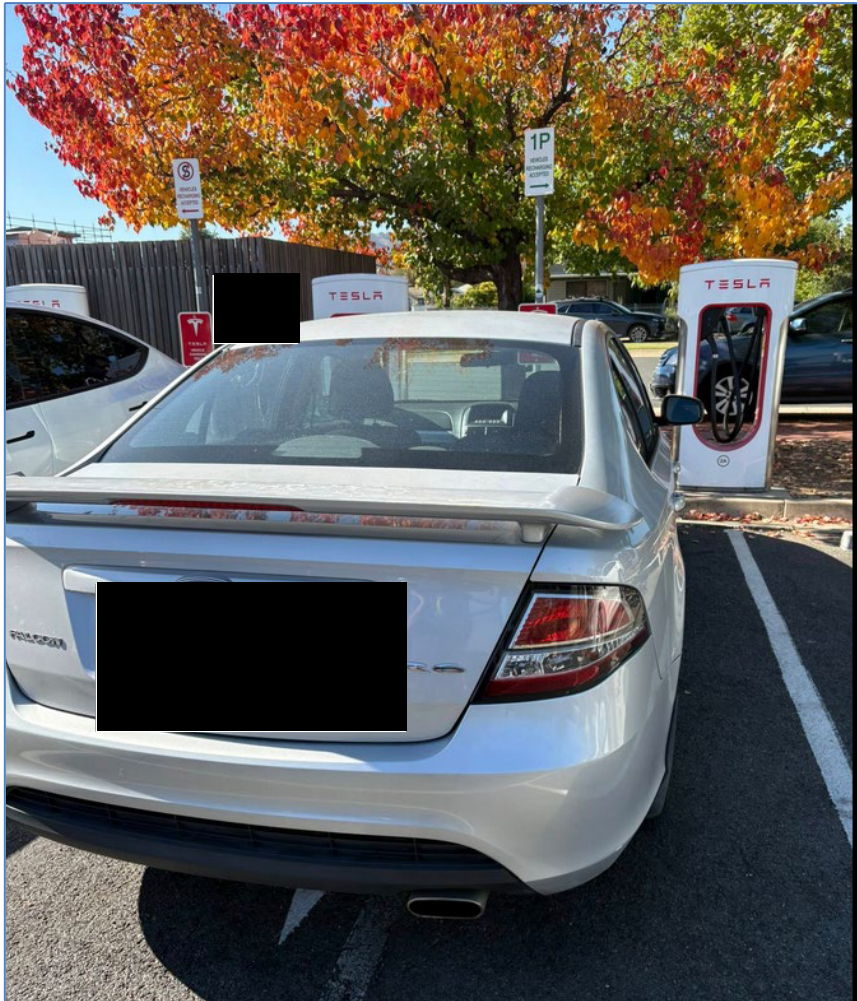
I thank the Committee for their consideration.



Ken McLeod

⁴ <https://www.drive.com.au/caradvice/how-much-does-it-cost-to-charge-a-tesla-australia/>

APPENDIX 1 – BLOCKING OF EV CHARGING STATIONS



Ahhh, bless. Bright, [REDACTED]





Anonymous member

April 13 at 10:40 AM · 🌐

██████████ taking up a spot for parking without charging on a very busy Sunday on the
██████████
Before anyone asks, tried plugging them in but I think they locked their charge port.



Anonymous member

April 19 at 10:36 AM · 🌐

Three EV's tried to charge here and had to leave plenty of other parks. ██████████



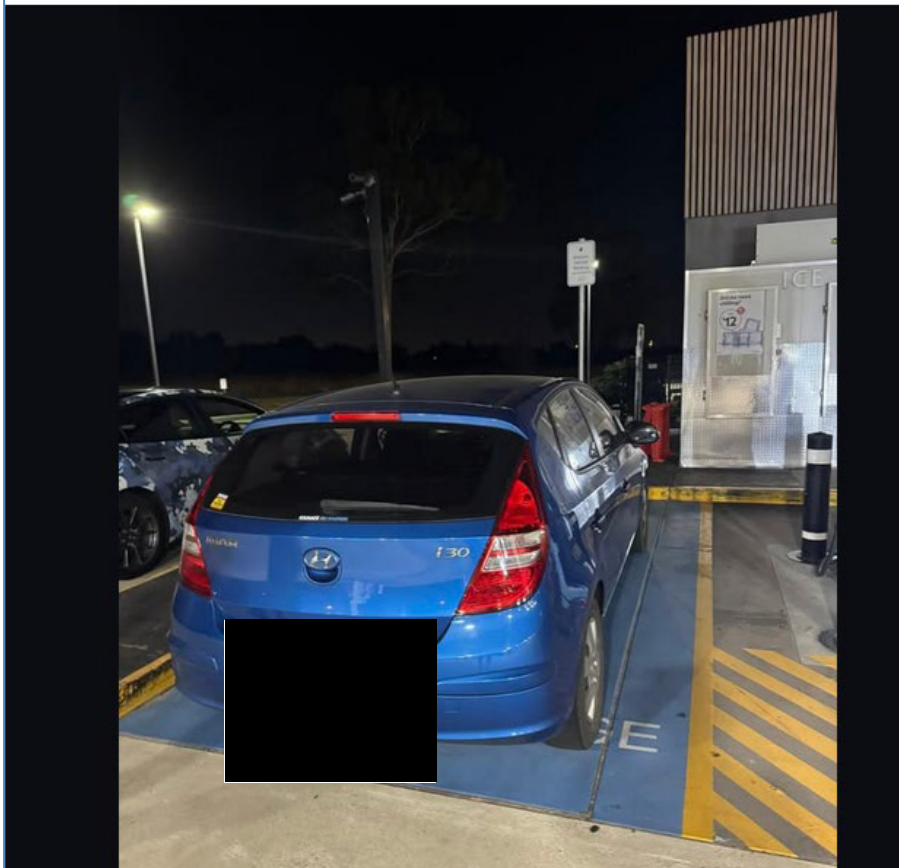
Not even plugged in Maybe they think that having vacant bays next to them makes it ok?
Is there a special category for a [REDACTED]



March 29 at 9:51 AM · 📍

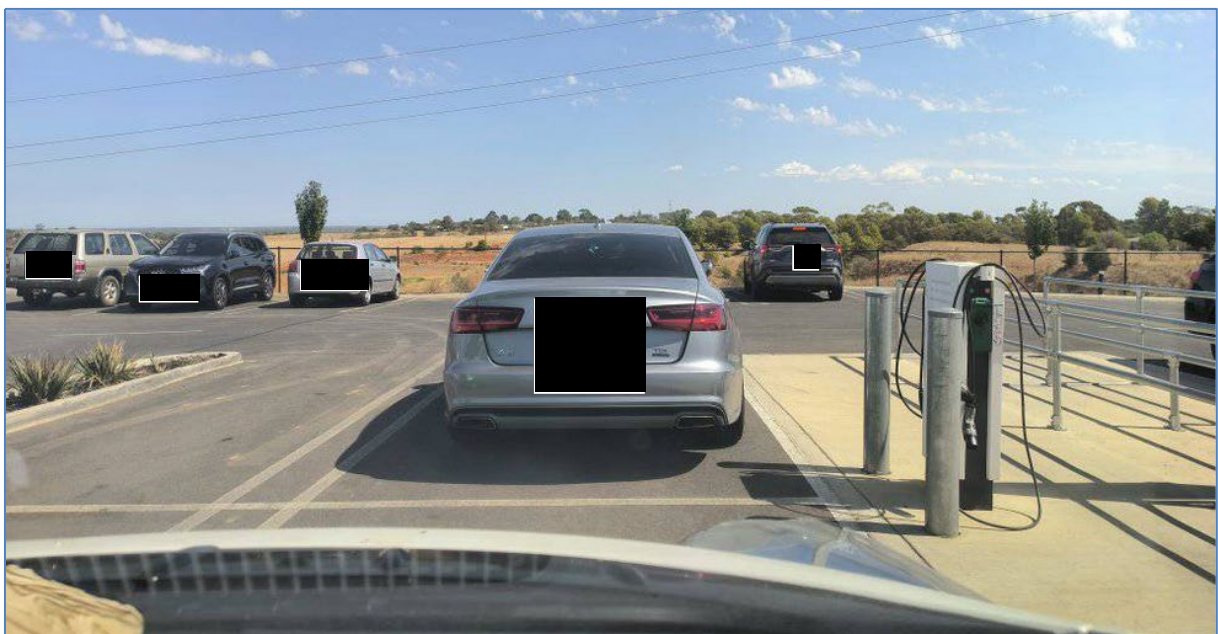
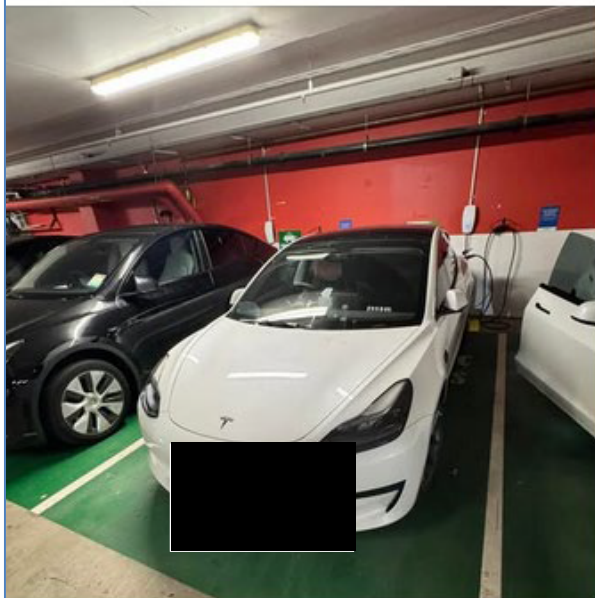
Had an interesting experience today at [REDACTED] A petrol car was parked in the EV charging bay, blocking access. I politely asked the driver if he could move, and instead of a simple 'sorry' or 'no,' he accused me of harassment and started recording me.

EV drivers already face enough challenges with charging availability—why make it harder? Let's respect designated spaces, whether it's disabled parking, parent bays, or EV chargers. Have you ever had a similar experience?



██████████ - free chargers.

This car always finishes charging and sits there for hours. Prevented a Telsa 3 and MG from charging.



Woolworths [REDACTED] Not only blocking a charging spot on a busy Saturday but can't even park properly

