

**Submission  
No 8**

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

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**Date Received:** 22 April 2025

As Australia confronts the dual challenges of climate change and the transition to sustainable energy, New South Wales (NSW) stands at a pivotal juncture. With a commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, the state's leadership in electric and alternative energy vehicles (EVs) is crucial. The NSW Government has recognized the importance of EV infrastructure, committing \$199 million over four years to develop a world-class charging network. This investment aims to facilitate seamless EV travel across the state, enhancing accessibility and convenience for all users.

A significant portion of this funding, \$149 million, is allocated to EV fast charging grants. These grants co-fund the installation and operation of ultra-fast charging stations at 100 km intervals along major state highways and every 5 km in metropolitan areas. This strategic placement ensures that EV drivers have reliable access to charging facilities, mitigating range anxiety and promoting EV adoption. The introduction of EV kerbside charging grants, totaling \$10 million, addresses the needs of residents in areas with limited access to private off-street parking. By installing kerbside chargers, the government is making EV ownership more feasible for a broader demographic, particularly in urban settings.

NSW has the opportunity to set a national benchmark in EV adoption, especially in regional communities and the freight sector. The state's expansive road network and diverse landscapes provide a unique platform for implementing innovative EV solutions.

In the freight sector, the NSW Government's "Towards Net Zero Emissions Freight Policy" outlines a phased approach to transitioning road and rail freight to net-zero emissions. This policy, developed in consultation with industry stakeholders, emphasizes the need for safe, sustainable, and productive outcomes. By supporting the adoption of electric heavy vehicles and establishing necessary charging infrastructure, NSW can lead the nation in decarbonizing the freight industry. Additionally, the state's investment in electric buses and school transport, such as the deployment of electric school buses in north-western NSW, demonstrates a commitment to sustainable public transport solutions. Expanding these initiatives can further solidify NSW's position as a leader in sustainable transportation.

The shift to electric and alternative energy vehicles necessitates a comprehensive strategy for workforce transition. Workers in traditional automotive manufacturing, maintenance, and fossil fuel sectors may face displacement due to technological advancements and changing industry demands.

To mitigate these impacts, the NSW Government should invest in retraining programs that equip workers with skills relevant to the EV industry. These programs can focus on areas such as EV maintenance, battery technology, and renewable energy systems. Collaborations with TAFE and vocational training institutions can facilitate the development of curricula tailored to industry needs. The federal government's commitment to providing 100,000 free TAFE places annually presents an opportunity to align training programs with national workforce development goals.

Delaying the adoption of electric and alternative energy vehicles poses significant risks to both the economy and the environment. Economically, late adoption can result in increased costs associated with retrofitting existing infrastructure, missed opportunities for innovation, and reduced competitiveness in the global market.

Environmentally, continued reliance on fossil fuel-powered vehicles contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, and climate change. By accelerating the transition to EVs, NSW can reduce its carbon footprint, improve air quality, and contribute to global efforts in combating climate change.

The strategic investment in electric and alternative energy vehicle infrastructure is paramount for New South Wales to lead Australia's transition to sustainable transportation. By enhancing charging networks, supporting the freight sector, investing in workforce retraining, and embracing early adoption, NSW can position itself as a national leader in sustainable mobility. The economic and environmental benefits of such initiatives will not only future-proof the state's transportation system but also contribute to a healthier and more sustainable future for all its residents.