

**Submission
No 61**

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

Organisation: Central Coast Council

Date Received: 2 May 2025

2 May 2025

Ms Lynda Jane Voltz, MP
Chair
Committee on Transport and Infrastructure

Reply submitted via online portal

Dear Lynda

Inquiry into infrastructure for electric and alternative energy source vehicles in NSW

Thank you for inviting Central Coast Council (CCC) to contribute to the Parliamentary Inquiry into infrastructure for electric and alternative energy source vehicles. We are the third largest local government area outside Greater Sydney, and the 8th largest in Australia, spanning 1,681 square kilometres of diverse geography, including waterways, coastline, bushland, open spaces and urban communities.

Supporting a community of 360,344 (2025) residents, the Central Coast's population is projected to reach 415,502 by 2046, an 18% increase (approximately 60,000 people) from the 2021 Census. Population growth will place greater demand on key services such as healthcare, education, housing, and transportation. Addressing this growth requires significant investment in infrastructure and resource allocation.

Council is proactively planning for growth and infrastructure demand and seeks to collaborate with state and federal agencies to advocate for funding and long-term support to address increase in demand.

CCC welcomes this opportunity and provides the following submission for the Committee's consideration.

Funding and location of electric vehicle chargers or infrastructure for other potential energy fuel sources

Recommendation

Central Coast Council would support a consistent statewide approach to minimum standards for the design, maintenance, accessibility, and safety of infrastructure to support electric vehicle or other energy fuel sources. These standards would ensure consistency and reliability, addressing compliance with relevant standards and public amenity considerations. This support extends to:

- A structured and planned approach to facilitate and support Council's who do not have the resourcing to address and foster locally-relevant solutions and initiatives.
- Legislation that supports mandating electric vehicle recharging facilities in new developments, including shopping centres, multi-level car parks and service stations, with enforceable compliance standards for design and maintenance. This legislation should also consider opportunities within central business areas and tourist hot spots.

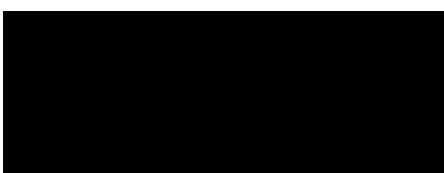
- A funding allocation for State and Local Government entities to support public-private partnerships to enhance services or re-use existing infrastructure such as “surplus” petrol stations and other vehicle-friendly locations for recharging and or refuelling. Financial incentives to promote the re-use of such locations are likely to be needed, given the commercial risks in building infrastructure in advance of peak use. The terms of the grant funding need to be more facilitative to retrofit older facilities to modern standards.
- Access to critical information about the capacity of the local electricity distribution system to accommodate electric vehicle charging, and small-scale hydrogen production or refuelling facilities is required. The limited capacity of the electricity distribution system to provide the necessary upstream infrastructure to accommodate a significant level of commercial vehicle recharging is a significant constraint that should be addressed.

The level of publicly accessible electric vehicle or alternative fuel charging or fuelling infrastructure on the Central Coast is demonstrably low and is not in keeping with the pace and uptake of electric vehicles. With the growth anticipated for this region and its function as a drive destination, there is opportunities to support destination charging and truck route charging that could be undertaken by a mix of public and private infrastructure provision.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide recommendations to the inquiry, there are several opportunities to support regional communities in NSW with electric vehicle chargers or infrastructure for other potential energy fuel sources that would support sustainable growth.

Central Coast Council wishes the committee a productive session and look forward to the inquiry outcomes.

Yours faithfully



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