Queensland Government

Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 43568
Your ref: A792141

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3620-21 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 17 November 2021 about removing electric vehicles from Queensland roads.

The Palaszczuk Government remains committed towards reducing emissions and protecting our environment with a target of net zero emissions by 2050, and an interim target of 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. The Palaszczuk Government has also committed to a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030, which will further reduce energy sector emissions.

In 2018, emissions from the transport sector contributed 22.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (or 13 per cent of Queensland's total emissions). Road transport is the main source of the transport sector's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, contributing 84 per cent of the sectors emissions (in 2018). The stationary energy sector accounts for (46 per cent) of GHGs emissions.

Actions to quickly and easily reduce transport emissions are urgently required. Renewable energy plays an important role in reducing energy sector emissions which is why the Department of Transport and Main Roads—in partnership with the Department of Energy and Public Works—is developing a new Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Strategy.

The new ZEV strategy will promote other new and emerging technologies and renewable energy, such as hydrogen and leverage off the development and growth of the renewables sector to drive job creation and new industries here in Queensland.

Queensland has one of the largest uptakes in solar systems in the world, with more than 700,000 rooftop solar systems installed across the state. Combining the shift from petrol and diesel vehicles to ZEVs with the greater use of renewable energy makes them an ideal solution to reduce transport and energy sector emissions.

The Palaszczuk Government also committed $5.3 million to develop the Queensland Electric Superhighway (QESH), which has operated since late 2017. The QESH allows electric vehicle motorists to easily recharge at any of the 31 locations between Coolangatta and Port Douglas, and from Brisbane to Toowoomba. In June 2021, the government announced Phase 3 of the QESH would be constructed, adding a further 18 charging sites to the QESH network.

Since it commenced, QESH use has saved between 704 to 826 tonnes of CO_2 emissions (using the National Greenhouse Accounts Factors), compared to similar light petrol or diesel vehicles, respectively. Most energy for QESH sites is sourced through green credits and offsets.

From an EV perspective, a Transport Energy/Emissions Research study *Meeting our greenhouse gas emission targets: can electric vehicles meet the challenge?* provides a detailed comparison of internal combustion engines and battery electric vehicles (BEVs). More information is available on Transport Emission/Energy Research's website at www.transport-e-research.com/publications.This life cycle assessment includes GHG emissions from all aspects of a vehicle's life: vehicle production, fuel/electricity production and infrastructure, grid/charging losses, on-road use and vehicle disposal/scrappage.

The study suggests that electrification of the passenger fleet would reduce GHG emissions by up to 40 per cent on the 2018 Australian electricity mix, which was still largely generated from fossil fuels. Importantly, as our use of renewable energy continues to increase, BEVs are forecast to reduce GHG emissions up to 80 per cent. The study suggests that a rapid electrification of the passenger vehicle fleet is a robust way to substantially reduce life cycle GHG emissions from road transport.

The Palaszczuk Government is also working to improve consumer understanding on various ways they can recharge and the optimal charging times to maximise the use of renewable energy and minimise peak demand on the electricity grid.

The transition to zero emissions will require partnerships and the Palaszczuk Government remains committed to working with the community, business and industry to ensure sustainable, new, future green economy for all Queenslanders. This means investigating opportunities to maximise whole of life-cycle considerations, vehicle and battery recycling, and the new industries that will come from a zero emissions future.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads