

Media Release

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Electric Vehicle Discussion Paper lays the foundations for a considered plan to transition the Australian vehicle fleet.

The Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA) today applauded the Albanese Labor Government and Climate Change Minister Chris Bowen and Federal Transport Minister Catherine King for a Discussion Paper that captures the critical issues to be addressed in a National Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategic Plan.

MTAA CEO Richard Dudley said MTAA and its Members welcomed the staged and balanced approach taken in the content, including recognising not only battery electric but Plug-In Hybrid and Hydrogen and the importance of effectively managing and servicing the existing fleet to reduce emissions.

‘They are clear and consistent, reflecting Labor Government commitments but also recognise MTAA and Member Associations expressed concerns as issues to explore further through consultation,’ Dudley said.

Dudley said the timing of the release of the discussion paper could not have come at a better time.

‘Leaders of Australia’s most prominent automotive representative and training organisations are returning this week from a comprehensive, in-depth examination of automotive industries, EV strategies, and their impacts in Norway, Sweden, The Netherlands, Germany, the United Kingdom, and were shown changing technologies with the global car and component manufacturers’ Dudley said.

‘Learnings from this study tour which culminated in more than two years of online engagement and analysis, combined with the input and knowledge base of thousands of automotive businesses employing tens of thousands of Australians, will inform MTAA and Member submissions to the Discussion Paper,’ he said.

‘While Australia may well be behind other jurisdictions in EV policy and uptake, it is clear from European investigations that Australia is arguably in a far better position to avoid the potholes, pitfalls and unintended consequences of other EV transition pathways,’ he added.

MTAA said the goals of affordability, expanding EV uptake and choice, reducing emissions, fuel savings, and potential for local manufacturing are broad enough to capture related matters that could impact outcomes.

In addition, the objectives and identification of other areas that will benefit from national coordination to support and achieve the goals echo MTAA, Member and industry calls to consider workforce, training, taxation, incentives and subsidies, CO2 emission targets and recycling as part of an integrated whole of Government approach.

‘Together, we have much work to ensure everyone understands and owns a vital journey to transition the national fleet and MTAA and Members look forward to partnering with the Government and our industry colleagues to achieve the required outcomes,’ Dudley said.

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