

Media Release

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Albanese Government actions MTAA call to fast-track National Electric Vehicle Strategic Plan

The Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA) today thanked Federal Climate Change Minister Chris Bowen and Federal Transport Minister Catherine King for heeding the MTAA's call to fast-track the development and implementation of a National Electric Vehicle Strategic Plan.

'On 26 July 2022, MTAA facilitated a summit of ten peak industry associations who agreed on unified national positions on critical elements requiring consideration in such a plan. Two weeks later, MTAA called for the Government to fast-track the plan's development; and ten days later, we have action,' MTAA CEO Richard Dudley said.

Mr Dudley said the Albanese Government and its Ministers were backing words with action. The Federation and Members welcome the commitment to end lethargy and inaction on critical policy to decarbonise Australia's national passenger and light commercial fleet of 20 million vehicles.

'One of the first 13 Bills introduced to Parliament in the inaugural sitting of the 47th Parliament contained the Labor Party's commitment to exempt certain electric vehicles from Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT). And today, the Albanese Government and Ministers Bowen and King, in particular, have laid the foundations for the road to a decarbonised national fleet,' Dudley said.

'The delivery next month of a discussion paper on a National Electric Vehicle Strategic Plan, including consideration of a fuel efficiency standard – a unified position adopted by national industry associations – has kickstarted the work we all have to do,' he added.

Dudley said the ambition and aspiration of the plan must tether to grounded facts, analysis, and rational justification.

'The development of a National Electric Vehicle Strategic Plan cannot be portfolio specific or siloed where departments work in isolation on elements of the same plan.

'In a rapidly changing mobility environment, one technology cannot be favoured over another. Commonwealth and State/Territory Governments must not take divergent or inconsistent pathways to try and race to the same end state. And we cannot fail to carefully consider other critical elements such as the skills development, training, workforce requirements, services, facilities, and infrastructure, both home-based and public, necessary to achieve sustainable outcomes,' Dudley said.

Dudley said the joint announcement by both Ministers Bowen and King and the invitation of jurisdiction Ministers for Transport gave comfort that these concerns are not only recognised but being addressed at the start of the journey.

'MTAA and Members representing thousands of automotive businesses look forward to working with Government to achieve the outcomes required', Dudley said.

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