

Connect Melbourne's north: accelerate community EV transition



Transport
connectivity
and access

Strategic investment in EV charging, fleet transition and active transport presents a timely opportunity to reduce exposure to rising fuel costs, strengthen energy resilience and deliver long-term economic and emissions benefits for Melbourne's north.

Our ask (deliverables)

- **Enable a region-wide public charging network**
 - Fund and support delivery of medium and fast chargers across 64 activity centres.
 - Upgrade electricity networks to manage increased EV and community energy load.
 - Improve coordination and transparency with distribution network service providers.
- **Accelerate Council and commercial fleet transition**
 - Provide funding for Councils to rapidly transition light and heavy fleets to EVs.
 - Support trials and importation of electric heavy fleet vehicles.
 - Reduce reliance on carbon offsets by enabling real emissions reductions.
- **Reduce barriers for households and businesses**
 - Support renters and apartment dwellers to access charging.
 - Retrofit existing buildings and high-density areas.
 - Provide business-focused tools and incentives to cut fuel costs through EV uptake.
- **Pair EV transition with active transport investment**
 - Fund walking, cycling, e-bikes and micro-mobility infrastructure.
 - Reduce overall car dependence to ease fuel demand and congestion.
 - Embed emissions reduction targets into transport and land use planning.

Why this matters now

Melbourne's north is ready to move. Councils have the plan, the partnerships and the sites. The private sector is prepared to invest. And community demand is rising.

What we need now is targeted government funding, coordinated energy planning and policy support to accelerate the transition, reduce fuel dependence and deliver a cleaner, more affordable transport system for our region.

Electric vehicles (EVs), when paired with renewable energy and supported by active and shared transport, offer a practical pathway to reduce fuel dependence, cut emissions and improve economic resilience. But without coordinated investment, it will be a slow, inequitable transition.

To address this, our 7 Councils have jointly developed a comprehensive *Community Electric Vehicle Transition Plan* to provide a clear, evidence-based pathway forward.

The need for investment

EV uptake across our region continues to be constrained by:

- high upfront vehicle costs
- inadequate and uneven public charging access
- limited options for renters and higher-density housing
- electricity network constraints, particularly in peri-urban areas
- lack of coordination between governments, energy providers and industry.

Our project is investment-ready

Our *Community Electric Vehicle Transition Plan* is a coordinated, shovel-ready framework that:

- identifies priority activity centres and charging demand to 2030
- clarifies the facilitation role of our Councils and the delivery role of industry
- aligns EV transition with active transport and emissions reduction goals
- supports early Council fleet transition to seed the second-hand EV market
- enables integration with renewable energy and local solar generation.

Our Councils are ready to act as enablers and convenors, leveraging public land, planning frameworks and partnerships to unlock private investment at minimal ongoing cost.

Benefits of supporting this important project

- Lower fuel costs and reduced exposure to petrol price shocks.
- Faster emissions reductions aligned with state and national targets.
- Fair and equitable access to EV infrastructure across our urban and peri-urban areas.
- Healthier, more liveable communities through cleaner air and active transport.

Importantly, shifting cars from petrol to electric alone will not meet emissions targets or reduce congestion. Without parallel investment in renewable-powered charging, active transport and fleet transition, transport emissions will remain too high and fuel demand too exposed.

Community Electric Vehicle Transition Plan

Transport is one of the largest and fastest-growing sources of emissions in Melbourne's north. At the same time, our households and businesses are facing volatile fuel prices, supply insecurity and rising transport costs.

Community Electric Vehicle Transition Plan

Forecast EV ownership by LGA

