

TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL **ELECTRIC VEHICLE STRATEGY**

2024-2027





INTRODUCTION

Local governments play an integral role in steering the transition to electric vehicles (EVs) in Australia. Driven by the need to reduce carbon emissions, electric vehicles are being integrated into local government fleets, charging infrastructure is being installed in public places, and projects and policies are being developed to encourage and accelerate the shift towards green transport. When residents see local governments installing chargers in public places, driving EVs, conducting information sessions, and updating building codes, it familiarises and normalises EVs and their associated technologies. Providing tangible experiences for residents will create opportunities for them to sit in the driver's seat of the changing shape of transport.

PURPOSE

Connect our local region with the wider EV charging network, opening up opportunities for tourism and economic development, assist the state Government with reaching their goal of a fast charger every 100km in regional areas as mentioned in the NSW Electric vehicle strategy, aligns with our EV public charging policy, prepares our community for the global transition to EVs, whilst reducing associated vehicle emissions and impact on our local environment.

THE CHALLENGE

As the transport industry moves away from manufacturing Internal Combustion Engines (ICE) and Increases manufacturing EVs this approach will lead to increased EVs on our roads, in light of this strategies from governments and organisations have been created to promote and adjust to the change from ICE to EVs

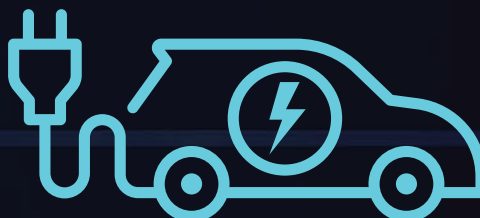
Without a strategy in place to guide us in moving forward there is a real possibility our vehicle emissions will not fall and we will see the negative impact on our local environment continue. It could also slow our uptake of public chargers increasing our risk of not having the infrastructure in place to handle the increased number of EVs passing through our region and limiting an important tourism opportunity to the Area.

BENEFITS OF EVS

⚡ Lower maintenance costs

⚡ Improved driving experience
- good performance and quieter

⚡ Safety vehicles
- every electric vehicle ever tested in Australia has achieved the maximum 5-star ANCAP safety rating



⚡ Reduced air pollution
- better for health

⚡ Free from reliance on imported fossil fuels

⚡ Minimise or eliminate greenhouse gas emissions*
- you can charge with renewable energy at home by installing solar or purchasing Green Power

Source: *Electric Vehicles* | Willoughby City Council (nsw.gov.au)

*even regular grid electricity has fewer emissions than petrol



Table 1 Alignment to other strategies and plans

DOCUMENT	SUMMARY	ALIGNMENT
National EV Strategy	The National Electric Vehicle Strategy is part of the Australian Governments Powering Australia plan to improve affordability, create jobs and reduce emissions. It provides a nationally consistent framework to get Australia's road transport sector on a pathway to net zero emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of fast DC charging stations and chargers • Number of public on street and other destination chargers
NSW EV Strategy	The NSW Government will invest \$209 million to ensure widespread, world-class EV charging coverage to future proof the EV network. This includes \$149 million being invested into EV fast charging grants, which will co-fund charge point operators to install and operate ultra-fast charging stations at 100 km intervals across the state. Investing to create a world-class charging network, \$20 million will be allocated to EV destination charging grants. Eligible regional tourist locations such as motels, restaurants and attractions will be assisted to co-fund the purchase and installation EV chargers to attract EV drivers to their sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a world-class electric vehicle charging network • Making it easy to drive an electric vehicle
Future Transport Strategy	The Future Transport strategy will guide the community on our strategic directions for future planning, investment, delivery and operations. We need to continue to drive down emissions in our transport systems to reduce our costs and environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P3.2 Help the transport sector achieve net zero emissions by 2050 • E3.2b Improve Road infrastructure and wayfinding, and support investment in EV charging infrastructure at regional tourist locations and on routes. • E5.3 Adopt flexible procurement practices to promote innovative services and solutions
State Infrastructure 22-42	The 2022 SIS sets out Infrastructure NSW's advice on the infrastructure needs and priorities of the State for the next 20 years, and beyond. Transport will be the largest emitting sector by 2030 (see Figure 6.2 for a breakdown of current emissions across transport modes in NSW). Vehicle emissions policy extends well beyond infrastructure considerations, but the NSW Government's approach to transport infrastructure should support efforts to reach Net Zero. This is particularly important as most emissions from this sector are influenced by how public infrastructure assets – the road and rail networks – are powered and used	6.4 Transition in the transport sector
NSW Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Plan	NSW's Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Plan reflects our growing focus on future mobility and technology innovations which will modernise transport for the community and businesses across New South Wales. As a government, we want to embrace the growing availability of alternative transport such as electric and hybrid vehicles. This Plan will maximise the benefits of a transition to more electric and hybrid vehicles for NSW. Electric vehicles offer significant economic and environmental benefits as well as contributing to a modern and cleaner energy future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • co-invest in fast chargers in regional NSW – on major regional corridors, in partnership with charging suppliers and councils • adopt preferred charging standards - to guide councils, companies and investment • support EV charging through strategic land use planning and guides – helping councils prepare for EV charging • develop and standardise roadside wayfinding signage

DOCUMENT	SUMMARY	ALIGNMENT
<p>Tamworth Regional Council Blueprint 100</p>	<p>The Blueprint 100 is an overarching strategy that provides a roadmap to take the Tamworth Region towards its vision of a prosperous economy and high living standards with a population of 100,000 people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.3 A strong and vibrant Tamworth City Centre • 3.10 Strengthen Tamworth's wider tourism opportunities • 3.14 Establish business friendly initiatives • 4.1-4.4 Establish local strategies for towns and villages • 5.2 More efficient road network • 6.5 Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy • 8.3 Energetically market Tamworth beyond the region and internationally to both the business market and the community
<p>Tamworth Regional Council Sustainability strategy</p>	<p>Our Sustainability Strategy provides a framework to integrate sustainability throughout Tamworth Regional Council (Council) as an Organisation and to improve sustainability outcomes for the Community of the Tamworth LGA. Transportation and Mobility looks to improve active and public transport, increasing the connectivity of our community whilst reducing carbon emissions. In order progress within this area, solutions need to be economically, environmentally and socially sustainable, operationally resilient, affordable and supports emissions reduction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a road map for connecting our LGA to the wider EV network • Installation of additional electric vehicle charging infrastructure to adequately connect Tamworth LGA to the wider Electric vehicle network by 2026 • Investigate options for implementing charging infrastructure for future uptake of electric vehicles with input from Essential Energy • develop public private partnerships (PPP) to roll out EV charging stations in align with EV Roadmap/ Strategy.
<p>Tamworth Regional Council Environmental policy</p>	<p>Council is committed to pursuing best practice in environmental performance and acknowledges that its employees and the community at large expect environmentally responsible practice. Additionally, this policy establishes a common commitment to integrate the four pillars of sustainability within the Council's decision-making processes and operations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting business with suppliers and contractors who are committed to the values and objectives contained in this Environmental Policy.

OBJECTIVES

COMMUNITY / CUSTOMER ORIENTATION

- Support increased education around EVs
- Support and guide local business in their EV journey
- Support an EV trial day

EQUITABLE ACCESS

- Have equal opportunity around the region for access to public chargers, ensuring they are equally spread to alleviate range anxiety and to attract EV users to our region
- Working with relevant EV charging companies to ensure locals have easy access to EV charging infrastructure
- Ensure Charging stations are available locally for the main types of EV's
- Equal opportunity for EV charging companies to install their stations in the region.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

- Increasing our EV charging footprint in the wider EV charging network to encourage EV drivers re-charging in our local community
- Have charging location located within walking distance Town centre, Tourist hot spots, large shopping complexes and public facilities to facilitate increased foot traffic in local shops and attractions when cars are charging.
- Increase in local tourism with EV drivers taking the opportunity to explore their own backyard with the possibility of chargers in regional villages.

COLLABORATION

- Work with Essential Energy to locate potential sites that meet the load demand of EV charging.
- Establish relationships with key EV charging companies and encourage the installation of charging stations.

SUSTAINABILITY

- Encourage the use of renewable energy at charging stations
- Supporting the increase of EV owners in our community will go a long way in achieving our goal in reducing vehicle emissions and protecting our local environment

STEPS

- 1. Planning:** Council will take a cross directorate approach to ensure future EV charging planning and installation will provide equitable access to the community, working with Essential Energy to find sites that will handle EV charging stations and with the implementation of EV charging on public land policy, this will enable a consistent approach to each charging station installed on public land.
- 2. Infrastructure:** Council encourage the installation of fit for purpose Charging infrastructure at key sites around the region to not only connect our region locally but to also connect it to the wider EV network. whilst also promoting the use of sustainable energy at each Charging location.
- 3. Education and exposure:** Council will support the promotion of education around EVs to the wider community and their role in reducing our vehicle emissions and protecting our local environment, when coupled with a circular economy life cycle approach.
- 4. Tourism:** Encouraging the installation of public charging stations will help our region stand out, in turn encouraging visitors to the Tamworth LGA and provide an economic boost to local businesses.
- 5. Partnerships:** Along with our partnership with Essential Energy, Council will investigate establishing working relationships with a variety of EV charging companies, allowing a more efficient uptake of EV charging technology, providing the Tamworth Region the best opportunity to handle the forecasted increase of EVs on our roads.
- 6. Technology:** Encouraging partners to use smart chargers to make the charging experience as efficient as possible, as well as chargers that are easily located with the use of existing apps that can be used by apple or android users.

Table 2 List of actions

ACTIONS	YEAR				PRIMARY RESPONSIBLE DIRECTORATE	PRIMARY RESPONSIBLE TEAM	ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIES
	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027			
Investigate the best sites for charging stations on public land to support partners	✓	✓			Water Waste/ Regional Services	Sustainability/ Strategy assets & design	Planning/ Partnerships
Investigate if nominated sites are likely to handle the extra load of an EV charging station. Partners still need to go through a detailed review with Essential Energy	✓	✓	✓	✓	Water Waste	Sustainability	Planning
Make the policy for EV charging stations on public land available for use	✓				Water Waste/ Regional Services	Sustainability/ Strategy assets and design	Planning
Support EV trial days for the community		✓	✓	✓	Water Waste	Sustainability	Education & Exposure
Create a fact sheet for businesses interested in EV charging		✓	✓	✓	Water Waste	Sustainability	Education & Exposure
Encourage the installation of fit for purpose public Charging stations to encourage visitors to the region		✓	✓		Water Waste/ Regional services	Sustainability/ Strategy assets & design	Infrastructure/ Tourism / technology

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- Australian Federal Government Electric vehicle strategy - [National Electric Vehicle Strategy \(dcccew.gov.au\)](https://www.dcccew.gov.au)
- NSW EV strategy - [NSW Electric Vehicle Strategy](#)
- NSW future transport strategy - [Future Transport Strategy: Our vision for transport in NSW](#)
- NSW state infrastructure strategy - [State Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2042 \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
- NSW Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Plan - [NSW Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Plan](#)
- Tamworth Regional Council Blueprint 100 - [2020-162022 Blueprint 100 Part 1 \(14\).pdf \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
- Tamworth Regional Council Sustainability strategy - [ECM_1291450_v20_Tamworth Regional Council New Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022 - 2026 - Draft \(amazonaws.com\)](#)
- Tamworth Regional Council Environmental policy - 2023 POL Environmental Rev 11 75976 - GM Signed (2).pdf (nsw.gov.au)
- Electric Vehicle Council local government resource pack - [EVC-Local-Government-Resource-Pack.pdf](#)
- Willoughby city council electric vehicles - [Electric Vehicles | Willoughby City Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)



tamworth.nsw.gov.au