



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET3281-20

Your ref: A541594

16 April 2020

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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 number 3281-20 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by the Clerk of the Parliament on 17 March 2020 about internal combustion engines.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to reducing transport emissions as part of its climate change policy response. In 2017, two strategies were developed after extensive public consultation – the *Queensland Climate Transition Strategy* (QCTS) and the *Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy*. The QCTS sets a target of achieving zero net emissions by 2050, with an interim target of at least 30 per cent below 2005 emission levels by 2030.

In addition, the Palaszczuk Government recently commissioned the report *Capitalising on Queensland's Opportunities in a Zero Net Emissions Future* to assess climate-related risks and opportunities for Queensland across eight key sectors and 13 regions.

As Minister for Transport and Main Roads, I am committed to ensuring the transport sector plays its role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As an action of the QCTS, the Department of Transport and Main Roads is developing a Zero Net Emission Transport Roadmap. This roadmap will describe how the entire transport sector will shift to a low-carbon future, supporting the whole-of-Government climate targets.

I am aware of the United Kingdom's ban on the sale of internal combustion engines from 2035. The Palaszczuk Government is not currently considering a similar ban on the sale of internal combustion vehicles. The implementation of such a policy would be best achieved at the national level to give a clear and consistent market signal to vehicle manufacturers on the type of vehicles imported into Australia. However, in developing the Palaszczuk Government position, we will continue to monitor this and other international developments in clean transport policy.

The Palaszczuk Government has already been acting to reduce transport emissions. In 2017, Queensland released Australia's first electric vehicle strategy, *The Future is Electric: Queensland's Electric Vehicle Strategy*. One of the key actions completed under this strategy was construction of the Queensland Electric Super Highway (QESH).

The QESH is a network of publicly accessible electric vehicle recharging sites extending from Cairns to Coolangatta, and west to Toowoomba, and is the world's longest electric vehicle super highway within a single state.

Since installation of the first chargers in late-2017 and until the end of February 2020, the QESH has been used almost 11,500 times. A total of 173,030 kWh of renewably-sourced electricity was used by QESH fast chargers over this period which equates to approximately 865,000 kilometres travelled, or between 190 and 222 tonnes of carbon dioxide saved. The Palaszczuk Government has now committed a further \$2.5 million to fund the construction of additional sites for phase two of the QESH, providing infill charging sites along the QESH to further encourage a greater uptake of electric vehicles.

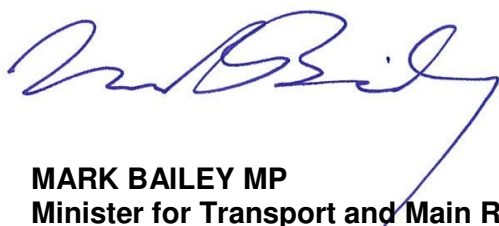
Another important step in encouraging the transition to low and zero emission vehicles is improved vehicle emission and fuel efficiency standards. Regulating the emissions of vehicles sold in Australia is the responsibility of the Australian Government through the Ministerial Forum on Vehicle Emissions. This Forum is chaired by the Honourable Michael McCormack MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development and includes the Honourable Sussan Ley MP, Minister for Environment and the Honourable Angus Taylor MP, Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction. The Forum's remit includes improving emission standards and introducing a carbon dioxide standard which the Palaszczuk Government supports.

I have advocated for progress of the review, which commenced in 2015, at the Transport and Infrastructure Council, and will continue to press the Australian Government for action on improved vehicle emission and fuel efficiency standards.

We are also listening to the community. On 18 February 2020, I hosted the Electric Vehicle Forum at Parliament House, with speakers from industry and academia presenting on future opportunities for electric and hydrogen fuelled vehicles in the transport sector. Representatives from industry and government attended the forum and discussed potential directions for government and business strategies to enhance the uptake of these vehicles.

The Palaszczuk Government is at the forefront in progressing the transition to low and zero emission vehicles and will continue to pursue opportunities in achieving this generational change.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Bailey', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right and then loops back down towards the text below.

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads