



Western Australia

**Renewable Energy and Electric Vehicle Investment  
Act 2019**

## **Explanatory Memorandum**

Australia has one of the highest per capita emissions of carbon dioxide in the world. Continued emissions of greenhouse gases will cause changes in all components of the climate system. The quickly changing climate poses significant challenges to individuals, communities, governments, businesses, industry and the environment. Increases in average temperatures, constantly shifting rainfall patterns and rising sea levels are all the result of human induced greenhouse gas emissions.

Transport, including cars, trucks, public transport, domestic flights and shipping is Australia's second largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions. Transport emissions also have the highest rate of growth of any sector. Cars are responsible for roughly half of Australia's transport emissions. As a result, the need for a higher usage of renewable energy in our transport sector has reached a critical point. Electric vehicles release no tail pipe air pollutants at the place where they are operated, and generally produce less noise pollution than an internal combustion engine, whether at rest or in motion.

Hence, this Act seeks to encourage state-wide investment into electric vehicles and renewable energy. The Western Australian Government will encourage the purchase of electric vehicles by decreasing costs of electric vehicles and plug-on hybrid cars as well as additional charges such as light vehicle registration fees. A lack of sufficient charging stations is a significant factor holding back the adoption of electric vehicles. This Act seeks to increase the number of public charging stations in order to rectify this by providing construction grants in both metropolitan and regional areas.

The Western Australian Sustainability Promotion Committee will work to produce and promote campaigns in order to further promote the purchase of electric vehicles. This committee will also work in collaboration with the Department of Transport and produce programs that promote sustainability along with the Department of Education. The creation of the Electric Vehicle Committee will provide oversight of the incentives and grants this Act sets out, as well as working with several governments and assisting the Minister for Environment.

The Renewable Energy and Electric Vehicle Investment Act 2019 addresses the pressing concerns of rising greenhouse gas emission impacts, providing essential investment into renewable energy within the transport sector in order to contribute to a long-term solution for Western Australia's contribution to climate change.



Western Australia

# Renewable Energy and Electric Vehicle Investment Act 2019

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Western Australia

# **Renewable Energy and Electric Vehicle Investment Act 2019**

**An Act for —**

**An act to create incentives for the uptake of electric vehicles, support the construction of electric vehicle infrastructure and promote sustainability within the community, and for related matters.**

## **Part 1 — Preliminary**

### **1. Short title**

This Act may be cited as the *Renewable Energy and Electric Vehicle Investment Act 2019*.

### **2. Commencement**

This Act commences on the day on which this Act receives Royal Assent.

### **3. Interpretation**

In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears —

“**EVs**” means Electric Vehicles;

“**EVC**” means Electric Vehicle Committee.

**s. 3**

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**“Membership”** means to state of belonging to an organisation;

**“C02”** means carbon dioxide;

**“WASPC”** means an abbreviation for the Western Australia Sustainability Promotion Committee;

**“Sustainability”** means using as little natural resources as possible as to maintain balance between human culture and the living world.

**“Campaign”** means a collection of advertisements, educational programs and other initiatives which work together in addressing a common goal;

**“Beyond Zero Emission Organisation”** means the independent climate change organisation which produces innovative research solution to achieve 100% zero emissions in Australia..

## **Part 2 — Lessening the cost of Electric Vehicles**

### **4. Lessening the cost of fully electric vehicles**

Vehicle license duties as applied in the Duties Act of 2008 shall not be applied to newly purchased EVs.

### **5. Lessening the cost of plug-in hybrid cars**

Plug in hybrids shall receive half of the tax break mentioned in Part 2, Clause 4 of this Act.

### **6. Lessening the cost of light-vehicle electric vehicle registration fees**

Only 25% of light vehicle registration fees shall be charged for EVs.

## **Part 3 — Sustainability Promotion Committee & Electric Vehicle Committee**

### **Division 1 — Western Australian Promotion Committee**

#### **7. Establishment of the Western Australia Sustainability Promotion Committee (WASPC)**

- (1) Western Australian Sustainability Promotion Committee (WASPC) is to be established.
- (2) The WASPC is an agent of the State, and as such, has the status, privileges and immunities of the State.
- (3) The WASPC is qualified for proceedings to be taken by, or against their corporate name.

#### **8. Membership of the WASPC**

- (1) The WASPC will consist of 10 members appointed by the Minister for the Environment
  - (a) One (1) Chairperson as selected in Clause 11;
  - (b) One (1) member must have a master's degree associated with environmental science;
  - (c) One (1) member must have a degree associated with environmental urban planning;
  - (d) One (1) member must be a chair of the Australian Electric Vehicle Association (Western Australia Branch);
  - (e) One (1) member must be a representative of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (Solar Energy Branch);
  - (f) Two (2) members must have a background in graphic design;
  - (g) One (1) member must be a representative of the Minister for the Environment; and



- (h) Two (2) members must have a background in administration as to deal with executive functions

## **9. Role of the WASPC**

- (1) Produce and promote campaigns which place a focus on:
  - (a) Educating all students, state wide, on the importance and significance of using renewable energy resources in combating universal issues of climate change, health, human rights, poverty and education, and/or;
  - (b) Reducing carbon dioxide emissions as a result of vehicle emissions by encouraging the purchase of more electric vehicles every year, thereby reducing the number of CO<sub>2</sub> emitting cars on the road as the number of electric vehicles on the road increases, and/or;
  - (c) Advertising the importance of Electric Vehicles and stating their place not only as the future of transportation, but also as a technological achievement which, with every passing year, becomes cheaper and more affordable, with infrastructure around electric vehicles growing just as rapidly.
- (2) Oversee the promotion and compile a report every twelve (12) months to be referred to the Minister for the Environment who will evaluate and provide feedback to the WASPC and;
- (3) Work in collaboration with the Department of Education to produce programs which promote sustainability and;
- (4) Work in collaboration with the Department of Transportation to assist in executing Part 2 of the *Renewable Energy and Electric Vehicle Investment Act 2019*.

## **10. Meetings of the WASPC**

- (1) The WASPC will have a minimum of six (6) meetings per year.
- (2) Additional meetings will be held at the discretion of the chairperson.

**11. Presiding Officer**

- (1) The Minister for environment will select a Chairperson.
- (2) The Chairperson shall have a background in environment and sustainable energy studies.
- (3) The Chairperson is required to preside over all WASPC meetings.
- (4) In the case that the Chairperson is absent, the WASPC will elect an acting Chairperson to preside over the meeting, this must be a current, attending member.
- (5) The Chairperson shall have the ability to oversee conflict and make executive decisions as to how to deal with this conflict.

**12. Quorum**

At any given meeting, five (5) members must be present to compose a full meeting.

**13. Inability to act**

- (1) If a member is temporarily unable to act due to illness or absence, they must inform the Chairperson at least three (3) business days and appoint a proxy to fulfil their position.
- (2) If a member is unable to act on subsequent occasions, the Minister for the Environment will appoint a new member to fulfil the role.
- (3) With this appointment, the new member is to be taken as a full member of the WASPC, with the powers and responsibilities in which the member they are replacing had.

**14. Length of Membership**

Members will act for four (4) years, after which the Minister for the Environment will allocate new members in accordance with Clause 8.

## **Division 2 — Electric Vehicle Committee**

### **15. Establishment of committee**

- (1) An Electric Vehicle Committee (EVC) is established.
- (2) The committee is to consist of seven (7) members, as per Division 2, Clause 16.
- (3) The function of the committee is to:
  - (a) Inquire into and report on any public or private police concerning electric vehicles;
  - (b) Give grants towards the production of EV charging stations pursuant to clause 18; and
  - (c) Monitor and assess the progress of the production of EV charging stations and any factors which could or are impact the environment

### **16. Membership of the EVC**

- (1) The EVC will consist of seven (7) members, appointed by the Minister for the Environment
  - (a) One (1) Chairperson, to be selected by the Minister for Environment;
  - (b) Two (2) representatives from the 'Beyond Zero Emission' organisation;
  - (c) Two (2) representatives from Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities; and
  - (d) Two (2) representatives from Department of Energy.
- (2) The length of memberships is such that members will serve a total of three (3) years, after which they can be replaced.

**17. Role of the EVC**

- (1) The EVC will give grants for organisations to build electric vehicle charging stations at a reduced cost, as per clause 18;
- (2) Produce a yearly report in conjunction with (Division 3, Part 2) of the *Renewable Energy and Electric Vehicle Investment Act 2019* and;
- (3) Assist the Minister for Environment in decision making, statistical research, and clear execution of Part 2 of the *Renewable Energy and Electric Vehicle Investment Act 2019*, and;
- (4) Work in alliance with Department of Environment and Energy officials, to oversee the production of electric vehicle charging stations, and;
- (5) Chairperson of the Committee is to conduct monthly meetings to ensure goals are achieved.

**18. Charging station grants**

- (1) The EVC shall have the power to give grants equal to 50% of the cost of the creation of an electric vehicle charging station in metropolitan areas.
- (2) The EVC shall have the power to give grants equal to 75% of the cost of the creation of an electric vehicle charging station in regional areas.
- (3) Grants mentioned above shall have a maximum pay-out of \$35000.
- (4) The Grants mentioned above shall be given to organisations which currently hold real estate and cannot be applied if those organisations have the current ability to accommodate charging stations.
- (5) The ability for organisations to hold charging stations mentioned in (4) shall be decided by the EVC.
- (6) The grants mentioned above shall only be applicable to the construction of the physical charging station and not towards to purchasing of any other construction or non-charging station related products.

## **Part 4 — Review and Sunset**

### **Division 1 — Review Period**

#### **19. Review provisions**

- (1) A review of the *Environment Committee Act 2019* is to be conducted by the Western Australia Sustainability Promotion Committee (WASPC) four (4) years after this Act has received Royal Assent.
- (2) Subsequent reviews will be conducted at the discretion of the Minister for the Environment.
- (3) The WASPC will submit a report to the Minister for the Environment, Minister of Education and the Minister of Transport detailing the findings of this review.
- (4) This report will be delivered to the relevant people no later than three (3) months after the conclusion of the review.

### **Division 2 — Review Content**

#### **20. Review Information**

The WASPC will be responsible for ensuring the following information is included within the review -

- (a) The provisions of Part 2, particularly the number of electric charging stations created in the preceding four years;
- (b) The relevant social and environmental outcomes as a result of the passage of this Act; and
- (c) A detailed timeline with prospective outcomes of the EVC in alignment with those detailed in Part 3, Division 2, Clause 15.

### **Division 3 — Sunset Provisions**

#### **21. Sunset of legislation**

Unless renewed, the *Renewable Energy and Electric Vehicle Investment Act 2019* and any amendments made to it will cease to have effect as of the 1st of January 2051.