



Ararat Rural City

# Electrification Policy

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# Electrification Policy

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### *Acknowledgment of Traditional Owners*

Council acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which we meet, and pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging.

# Electrification Policy

## INTRODUCTION

Local governments play an integral role in steering the transition to electric vehicles 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.

As transport, small plant and heavy fleet are the significant contributors to Ararat Rural City Councils carbon emissions, it is important Council look at ways to reduce these levels. Transitioning local government fleets to electric vehicles is one way to reduce these levels, promote zero emissions transport within our community and feed used electric vehicles into the second-hand market.

Many local governments are already purchasing electric vehicles despite not having electric vehicles in their fleet policy, demonstrating there is no need to wait to begin the transition.

Local governments that are further along the journey are integrating electric vehicles into their fleet policy, ensuring the preferential procurement of electric vehicles in their fleets.

Ararat Rural City Council acknowledge the urgent need for action to address the environmental and climate breakdown that poses serious future risks to the health and wellbeing of the people of Ararat Rural City.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

The objectives of this policy include the following:

- For Council to explore a preference for electric vehicles or plant options for the following: light vehicles, light plant, parks and gardens equipment
- Ensure the fleet of Council operations are met in the most efficient, transparent, and equitable manner with the lowest possible environmental footprint
- For Council to take a proactive approach and respond to ever increasing evidence and global concern of the impact of vehicle emissions on human and environmental health
- To continue Council's commitment to addressing climate change and reducing local airborne emission through the purchase and operation of low emission vehicles and equipment
- Demonstrate a commitment to environmental sustainability through a range of practices that promote more fuel-efficient vehicles and the reduction of single occupancy vehicle trips.

## PRINCIPLES

Ararat Rural City Council seeks to operate its vehicle fleet in a manner that optimises:

- Cost effectiveness and value for money;
- Service delivery to the community;
- Social responsibility;
- Environmental sustainability; and
- Administrative efficiency.

# Electrification Policy

## BACKGROUND

Battery electric vehicles will begin to dominate Ararat Rural City Council's electric fleet and plant. Battery electric vehicles are around three times more energy efficient than hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles and are available now for most use-cases other than the heavy plant segment. Zero emission heavy plant products are in development.

Electric fleet and plant will provide benefits including:

- Reduced energy costs
- Lower asset maintenance costs and longer asset life expectancy
- Enhanced energy security
- No air pollution and reduced noise pollution
- Improved driving and operator experience

The following opportunities exist to facilitate a transition with Ararat Rural City Council, to a low carbon transport system:

- Influence how employees work, reach workplaces and make work trips to achieve emissions and sustainability goals.
- Transition to a lower emission fleet. Opportunities exist to improve the fuel efficiencies, performance, and cost effectiveness of the fleet by setting an appropriate vehicle size and types to reflect operational requirements, environmental and sustainability goals. Council's fleet policy is the core mechanism governing all aspects of the fleet operations, this policy will also be reviewed to reflect Council's shift towards electrifying fleet and small vehicles.
- Promote and stimulate uptake of electric vehicles. Local government can indirectly influence electric vehicle uptake by changing parking policy and planning scheme amendments to favour electric vehicles and encourage private sector installation of charging stations.
- Partnerships can be investigated into the installation of electric vehicle and bike charging stations in key strategic locations across the municipality, particularly in the Ararat CBD.

Electric fleet and plant options are set to become more available as production and competition ramps up, and as improved policy and financial support is provided by the Australian and Victorian governments attracts products from overseas manufacturers.

Electric options will be explored and considered as the first preference for all new assets. However, it is already clear that the City's initial focus will be to transition the passenger fleet, minor equipment, and light plant. Electric heavy plant options are coming onto the market but are still in development for many applications.

## SUMMARY

Ararat Rural City Council will seek to optimise its fleet and plant and commence transitioning where suitable to electric or zero emissions options where they are available. This includes seeking quotes for electric or zero emissions options as a part of future procurement processes.

## STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO REDUCING EMISSIONS

Council will focus on battery electric vehicles as the core zero emission technology for fleet and small plant, unless other technologies emerge which are more cost effective and fit-for-purpose.

Council will review its Vehicle Policy and other relevant documents to enable the transition to electric vehicles

## RESPONSIBILITY

Council senior officers including Chief Executive Officer, Coordinator Contracts & Procurement, Coordinator Strategic Asset Management & IT, and Quality and Service Coordinator, responsible for implementing the Electrification Policy.

Management personnel, staff, and stakeholders within Ararat Rural City Council also have a shared responsibility to support the policy.

## CONSULTATION

### COUNCIL CONSULTATION

All Councilor's were provided with the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Electrification Policy.

### STAFF CONSULTATION

The Electrification Policy was circulated to the relevant Council staff, to seek their input. The policy was then developed after providing appropriate employees with extensive consultation.

## RELATED POLICIES/LEGESLATION:

- Vehicle Policy 2022
- Ararat Rural City Council's – Council Plan 2021-2025
- Asset Management Policy

## DEFINITIONS

### **Electric Vehicles (EV)**

An EV is defined as a vehicle that can be powered by an electric motor that draws electricity from a battery and is capable of being charged from an external source. An EV includes both a vehicle that can only be powered by an electric motor that draws electricity from a battery (all-electric vehicle) and a vehicle that can be powered by an electric motor that draws electricity from a battery and by an internal combustion engine (plug-in hybrid electric vehicle)

### **Green transport**

Green transportation is any means of travel that does not negatively impact the environment.

### **Hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles**

Fuel cell cars are powered by compressed hydrogen gas that feeds into an onboard fuel cell stack that doesn't burn the gas, but instead transforms the fuel's chemical energy into electrical energy. This electricity then powers the car's electric motors

### **Carbon emissions**

Carbon dioxide emissions are those stemming from the burning of fossil fuels and the manufacture of cement. They include carbon dioxide produced during consumption of solid, liquid, and gas fuels and gas flaring