AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY: TAKING ACTION ON ZERO EMISSION VEHICLES

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) is leading on the uptake and support of zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) with some of the most generous incentives for ZEVs in Australia.

The ACT Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with other Australian jurisdictions to work together on promoting the uptake of electric vehicles. The city-state has ambitious targets to dramatically increase its number of ZEVs, signalling the transition to manufacturers and businesses. This will be carried out through policy, financial and infrastructure support.

The transport sector produces almost 60% of the ACT’s greenhouse gas emissions, making it the state’s single largest contributor to emissions. The government is committed to addressing this by supporting zero emission vehicle uptake, complemented by measures to increase uptake of active travel and public transport.

- ZEVs on the road: 1016 battery electric vehicles (2021)
- EV charging stations: 11 publicly accessible charging plugs, 3 networks (June 2021)

Country: Australia
Area: 2,358 km²
Population: 431,800 (2021)
GDP: $40.90 billion (2020)
Total registered vehicles (all categories): 315,988 (2021)

Charging infrastructure:
Streamlined approval process for installation of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging points and development of a ZEV Public Charging Masterplan for the rollout of charging infrastructure to 2030.

ZEV identification:
Working towards providing specific zero emission vehicle number plates to allow easy identification and ensure that zero emission vehicle-related regulations and priorities are enforced.

Incentives: New or used ZEVs purchased in the ACT until June 2024 will receive two years of free registration, with first time ZEV purchases eligible for full stamp duty exemption. ZEVs are also permitted to drive in transit lanes until 2023 and, through the Sustainable Household Scheme, interest-free loans of up to $15,000 will be available to invest in new and used ZEVs and household vehicle charging infrastructure.

Government fleet: Ambition to reach net zero emissions in government by 2040, by switching to zero emissions specialist vehicles across the government fleet as model availability increases. All fit for purpose new passenger vehicles are already due to be zero emission from 2021.
**GHG EMISSIONS TARGETS**

In 2019–20, ACT’s GHG emissions were 1,684 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (ktCO₂-e). The city-state has set goals to reduce emissions below 1990 levels:

- 50–60% reduction by **2025**
- 65–75% by **2030**
- **90–95% by 2040**
- Net zero emissions by **2045**

60% of ACT’s greenhouse gas emissions are from transport (2020)

**ZEV TARGETS**

- **100%** of newly leased ACT Government fleet passenger vehicles will be zero emission from 2020–21 (where fit for purpose electric alternatives exist).
- 50 publicly accessible ZEV chargers delivered in 2022.
- 100% of the government fleet will be zero emission by 2040 (where fit for purpose electric alternatives exist).

**KEY OUTCOMES**

- **ZEV uptake:** The ACT has one of the highest number of EVs per capita, with 1 in 492 people owning an EV. EVs in the ACT account for 4% of vehicles nationwide.
- **New ZEV registrations:** Between 24 May and 19 July 2021, the number of battery electric vehicles registered increased from under 970 to over 1300 in late 2021. EVs make up 0.3% of total registrations in the ACT in 2020–21.
- **Government fleet:** The ACT adopted zero emission vehicles in the government fleet — in July 2020 there were 41 battery EVs.
- **GHG emissions:** Due to the ACT’s 100% renewable electricity target, the charging of ZEVs no longer results in greenhouse gas emissions.