



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

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The Honourable Bart Mellish MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads
and Minister for Digital Services
GPO Box 2644
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Via email to: transportandmainroads@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister

I write to you on behalf of Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) members to convey our concerns about aspects of *Queensland's Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy 2022–2032*.

The first problem with this document is in its title, which is a case of the Queensland Government parroting misleading auto industry propaganda to greenwash electric vehicles (EVs).

While EVs may be charged from renewable sources, claiming EVs create zero emissions is likely to be false and misleading as this claim does not account for the emissions generated during a vehicle's manufacturing and disposal processes. Sadly, the misleading nature of this document's title was not addressed despite the Brisbane CBD BUG pointing out the deceptiveness of this claim to the Queensland Government during its consultation on this strategy.

Thankfully, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has recently sought to stamp out this type of misleading product promotion by publishing its Making environmental claims: A guide for business. (<https://www.accc.gov.au/about-us/publications/making-environmental-claims-a-guide-for-business>)

While this ACCC guide is directed towards businesses – the Queensland Government should also not act contrary to Australian Competition Law – which is potentially the case as this document may mislead the community with false or deceptive claims about the environmental credentials of EVs.

Accordingly, we now call for this strategy document to be renamed using a more truthful and accurate title.

Another shortcoming of the strategy is that despite claiming “the ZEV Strategy is both vehicle type and fuel agnostic” and providing rebates of up to \$6,000 for new EV purchases - no rebates are available for e-bike or e-scooter purchases.

We recognise and strongly support the urgent need to transition to a low carbon transport. The potential for shifting to personal transport devices is a massive opportunity to reduce the cost of infrastructure for this transition, not to also overlook the potential to reduce transport costs for consumers by shifting to less costly modes i.e. e-bikes and e-scooters.

Sales and usage of e-bikes and e-scooters are booming across the country – as Australians are tired of sitting in their cars in traffic congestion while also footing major expenditure for the fixed and variable costs of owning and driving cars.

Despite these compelling circumstances the Queensland Government is not also offering rebates for e-bike and e-scooter purchases.

The Tasmanian Government is leading by example through adopting a truly agnostic approach in also offering rebates for purchases of electric bikes and scooters. (<https://recfit.tas.gov.au/e-transport>)

Accordingly, we call on the Queensland Government to expand the scope of the Queensland Zero Emission Vehicle Rebate Scheme, which also needs to be renamed to remove its potentially false/misleading environmental claim, to also include electric bike and scooter purchases.

I look forward to your responses on these concerns.

Yours sincerely

Paul French

Paul French
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG
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