

Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Policy

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1. POLICY PURPOSE

The Vision of the Greater Dandenong Sustainability Strategy is that the City of Greater Dandenong is one of the most sustainable cities in Australia by 2030.

This Public Electric Vehicle Charging Policy highlights a Council commitment to encourage the use of sustainable transport options.

The purpose of this policy is to create a framework to facilitate the provision and use of electric vehicle charging facilities on public land for residents, businesses and visitors to City of Greater Dandenong.

This policy provides guidance for the provision of electric vehicle charging facilities within public land within the City of Greater Dandenong. It is aimed at enabling consistent and mutually beneficial agreements between Council and Electric Vehicle Charging Facility providers.

2. BACKGROUND

Electric vehicles are anticipated to make up 22% to 64% of new vehicles sold in Australia by 2030. Current new electric vehicle price trends anticipate that electric vehicle prices will reach parity with petrol vehicles by 2025 and be 15% cheaper by 2030. As such it is important to be able to provide the required electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support the growth in electric vehicles both to encourage early adoption and to be ready for the market shift.

By providing or facilitating the provision of electric vehicle charging facilities in public spaces, City of Greater Dandenong will be ready to support this change in vehicle mix and ensure that the municipality remains a sustainable and attractive place to live and visit.

Electric vehicles produce no emissions to run and as electricity generation continues to move to cleaner technologies will have a reduced environmental impact when charging. Even with existing power generation emissions from charging electric vehicles generate less emissions than petrol vehicles.

Additionally as electric vehicles do not produce emissions and generate less noise, in areas they replace petrol vehicles it will result in better air quality and reduced noise pollution.

Electric vehicles and public charging facilities provide the following benefits:

- Electric vehicle charging costs are less than half the average fuel of petrol vehicles
- Public charging facilities provide convenient topping up location for keeping electric vehicles charged improving confidence and convenience for users
- Public charging facilities make locations more appealing to electric vehicle users which can benefit businesses
- Less emissions
- Improved air quality
- Reduced noise

3. SCOPE

This policy provides guidance to the provision of electric vehicle charging facilities within public land within the City of Greater Dandenong. It is aimed at enabling consistent and mutually beneficial agreements between Council and Electric Vehicle Charging Facility providers.

It does not consider the provision of electric vehicle charging facilities on private land or the promotion of electric vehicle use (including within Council's vehicle fleet).

4. POLICY

Application

The provision of electric vehicle charging facilities on public land within City of Greater Dandenong is subject to approval by the City of Greater Dandenong Council.

Electric vehicle charging facilities will be installed based on agreements reached between suppliers and Council. These agreements will address all aspects from installation to operation of charging facilities.

City of Greater Dandenong will work with charging facility suppliers to notify nearby property occupiers prior to the installation of charging facilities. This notification will invite opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback. All feedback will be considered by Council before the installation of a charging facility.

Council's Parking Review Committee will also review the application.

Considerations

The following considerations must be taken into account before the installation of an electric vehicle charging facility:

- Charging facilities are to be provided in areas maximising opportunity to end users including but not limited to;
 - high pedestrian and vehicular traffic areas,
 - activity generators such as employment centres, activity centres and community centres.
- Consideration must be given to the personal safety of end users with areas of high surveillance and lighting preferable.
- Placement of charging facilities must not adversely impact road safety. Consideration must be given to traffic conditions of the area.
- Placement of electric vehicle charging facilities must not adversely impact residential and commercial parking amenity.
- Council will consider other locations where there is a demonstrated demand for electric vehicle charging.

Requirements

Electric vehicle charging facility suppliers must provide;

- Details of the proposed electric vehicle charging facility specifications. These must be in accordance with current Australian and industry standards.
- Details for the proposed location. This must address the considerations above.
- Confirmation that electricity supply is available and the anticipated impacts on this supply.
- Report outlining business model for the charging service.
- Confirmation of appropriate liability insurance.

It is desirable that electric vehicle charging facilities are compatible with existing and future parking restrictions. This requires considering the charging speed of the charging facilities.

Council will negotiate with electric vehicle charging facilities suppliers to come to an agreement that will meet Council and supplier requirements, including provisions for removal and/or relocation before installation occurs.

Financial Costs

To encourage the use of sustainable transport options, City of Greater Dandenong will absorb costs associated with conversion and re-purposing costs of allocating parking bays for exclusive use of electric vehicles, including any potential lost revenue from parking, regulatory signs and line marking.

Where costs are minimal, Council will give consideration to waiving the cost of power for these facilities.

Council will maintain the parking spaces as per the maintenance schedule in accordance with Council's current Road Management Plan.

Council will enforce applicable parking restrictions as part of Council's normal parking management operations.

The installation, maintenance and operation of a charging facility will be the responsibility of the charging facility supplier unless otherwise agreed with Council.

Where an electric charging facility supplier wishes to provide additional signage, advertisements or road markings this cost is to be borne by the charging facility supplier, including on-going costs such as maintenance. Noting that this may require agreement with Council and/or a planning permit.

Any electric vehicle charging facilities proposed to be installed and owned by Council will need to be funded by a capital works program and comply with Council's procurement policies.

Performance Reporting

Electric vehicle charging facilities suppliers are required to report performance figures to City of Greater Dandenong on a biannual basis.

5. RESPONSE TO THE OVERARCHING GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020

Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that a Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles.

The review of this Policy has demonstrated Council's commitment to ensuring:

- (a) Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;
- (b) priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
- (c) the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted;
- (d) innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued;
- (e) collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought;
- (f) the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;
- (g) the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

This is achieved through:

- the Policy is clear and focussed on matters managed by Council (on street parking management)
- the Policy clearly meets objectives of several Council Strategies, including Council's Sustainability Strategy

- the Policy considers economic, social and environmental sustainability and is anticipated to achieve its goals with minimal financial impact to Council

6. CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006 – COMPATIBILITY STATEMENT

Council, Councillors and members of Council staff are a public authority under the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and, as such, are all responsible to act in accordance with the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006* (the Charter).

The *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* has been considered in the preparation of this report but is not relevant to its contents. The preparation of this report proposes the extension of a policy which has not impacted any of the rights set within the Charter.

7. RESPONSE TO THE GENDER EQUALITY ACT 2020

The *Gender Equality Act 2020* came into operation on 31 March 2021 and requires councils to take positive action towards achieving workplace gender equality and to promote gender equality in their policies, programs and services.

Council's Diversity, Access and Equity Policy and the *Gender Equality Act 2020* have been considered in the preparation of this report. The location of these services within highly visible and accessible locations addresses concerns raised by women associated with community safety. DDA access to parking spaces affects all parking spaces and is addressed by Council's Municipal Parking Strategy.

The content/topic/issue (of this report) is purely administrative in nature and does not benefit any one group over any other.

8. CONSIDERATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY

One of the overarching governance principles of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

In January 2020, this Council joined a growing number of cities around Australia and declared a "Climate and Ecological Emergency" and committed this Council to emergency action on climate change. Council has developed a Climate Change Emergency Strategy and Action Plan 2020-30 to help the City of Greater Dandenong become a resilient, net zero carbon emission city with an active community prepared for the challenges of changing climate.

This report relates to a policy which is targeted at achieving Sustainable Transport outcomes for the City of Greater Dandenong and is anticipated to reduce emissions.

Consideration was given to additional incentives to increase provision of Electric Vehicle Charging services through this policy. Additional provision of Electric Vehicle Charging facilities escalated through provision of Council funding through its own budget process will be considered in future budgets within this policy duration – noting that the biggest benefit in terms of facilitating increased uptake and ownership is anticipated in around the 2024-2027 period.

9. RESPONSIBILITIES

Decisions regarding management / allocation of on street parking spaces are made by Councils Transport and Civil Development Unit within the Business, Engineering and Major Projects Directorate. Application of the policy will be undertaken by this Unit as part of this process.

10. REPORTING, MONITORING AND REVIEW

Effectiveness of the policy will be undertaken through review of collected data and usage detailed in the Performance Reporting component of the policy.

Review at the end of this policy duration is anticipated to consider whether Council should:

- Limit / control expansion of on street electric vehicle charging services to protect other uses (such as non-exclusive signage);
- Generate income from providing land for electric vehicle charging; or
- Further incentivise provision of electric vehicle charging facilities.

11. REFERENCES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

Legislation

Local Government Act 2020

Road Management Act 2004

Road Management (General) Regulations 2016

Related Council and Other Policies, Procedures, Strategies, Protocols, Guidelines

Greater Dandenong Integrated Transport Plan 2017-22

Greater Dandenong Municipal Parking Strategy 2017-2027

Greater Dandenong Sustainability Strategy 2016-2030

Community Plan

Climate Change Action Plan

Road Management Plan