




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Electric Vehicles

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.30 pm): The government have a habit of dreaming big and trying to save the world, but they mess everything up that they touch. They blame the federal government for things that are not their responsibility. Last night I listened to an adjournment statement by the Minister for Transport about electric cars. He was all over the place. Let me put some facts around it to take us into the realm of reality.

There are 19.81 million vehicles registered in Australia—20,000 of those are EVs. Last year the EV market grew by 14,253. One of those was a car I bought. I am an MP who drives an electric vehicle. The Labor Party have a member on their side who drives one. The member for Logan drives an electric van, so I congratulate him. We have not seen any ministers driving around in electric vehicles. They talk up electric vehicles but they are not out there walking the walk. They do not have electric vehicles, so they do not know the problems that come with electric vehicles.

When the minister says we should subsidise the price of electric vehicles and that that is the federal government's responsibility, he is completely wrong. Instead, why doesn't the state government put electric vehicles into their ministerial fleet and encourage their ministers to drive around in electric vehicles so they can see what the real issues are with using them? Then they can go out and encourage people to buy electric vehicles by putting in more chargers.

I congratulate the government for putting in 18, but in reality 18 is not enough. An extra 13 will not work either. If members opposite drove electric vehicles, they would know that when they drive somewhere and their car is running out of power and the government has put in only one electric charger somewhere and another car is using it they cannot charge their vehicle. A 50-kilowatt charger takes two hours to charge an electric vehicle like mine. The government puts in seven-kilowatt chargers right beside them that take about eight hours to charge a vehicle. It is not practical.

When the government put chargers out there, the other thing they need to be cognisant of is that they should not put them right up the front of the shopping centre where they look like a disabled car park or they should not put them right where it is convenient for people to park because, funnily enough, someone else will park there who does not have an electric vehicle. They should put the chargers up the back of a car park somewhere and put in a big charger. Make it appropriate for people to use.

Then we should look at planning laws—surprise, surprise! Unit complexes do not have to have any sort of chargers built into them. What are we going to expect people to do when we all move to electric vehicles? Every manufacturer in the world is moving to electric vehicles. Sooner or later we are all going to be driving one. Are we going to drag a big electric cord out the door and hope that that will work? It will not. We need to encourage people to put electric chargers into new buildings and retrofit old ones. The easiest way for this government to learn about electric vehicles is for members to get one themselves and starting driving it.