

Attention: Director, Fuel Efficiency Standards—Surface Transport Emissions and Policy Division

I am writing to urge the Federal Government to legislate strong vehicle efficiency standards equivalent to those already existing in Europe, the United States, and New Zealand. As a nation committed to addressing climate change, it is imperative that Australia takes decisive action to limit the environmental impact of the transport sector, which accounts for a significant portion of our nation's emissions.

Implementing robust vehicle emissions standards is an effective and necessary step towards achieving our emission reduction targets, as well as reducing costs, improving air quality, and increasing cleaner vehicle choice.

The following benefits highlight the importance of adopting strong efficiency standards:

1. **Climate Change Mitigation:** Australia has committed to reducing carbon emissions under the Paris Agreement. Vehicle efficiency standards are a crucial tool in achieving these targets as transportation accounts for a significant portion of our nation's emissions. By adopting emissions standards aligned with global best-practice, we can make substantial progress in decarbonising the transport sector.
2. **Health and Air Quality:** Vehicle emissions contribute to severe health consequences for Australians. By implementing strong standards, we can reduce the levels of harmful pollutants such as nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, and volatile organic compounds. This will improve air quality, reduce respiratory illnesses, and enhance the overall health of our communities. By reducing air pollution, the government can reduce the burden on the healthcare system and improve the overall well-being of Australians.
3. **Consumer Benefits:** Strong vehicle efficiency standards will result in a wider availability of cleaner and more fuel-efficient vehicles in the Australian market. Consumers will have access to a broader range of options that are not only more sustainable but will also save them money on fuel costs in the long run.
4. **Economic Opportunities:** Adopting strong vehicle efficiency standards will foster innovation and drive investment in cleaner and more sustainable technologies. By aligning our standards with those in Europe, the United States, and New Zealand, we can encourage the introduction of cleaner vehicles into our market, support the growth of the domestic electric vehicle industry, and create jobs in research, manufacturing, and infrastructure development.
5. **Trade efficiencies:** Aligning our vehicle efficiency standards with international best practice will facilitate harmonisation with global markets. It will enable greater flexibility for automakers, streamline compliance processes, and encourage the importation of newer, cleaner vehicles into Australia. Moreover, it will demonstrate our commitment to global efforts in combating climate change and enhance Australia's reputation as a responsible global citizen.

To achieve these many benefits, it is critical that the government prioritises the long-term interests of its citizens and the environment over the short-term priorities of fossil fuel interests. Lobbying efforts by such entities aim to protect outdated and polluting technologies, hindering progress

towards a cleaner and more sustainable future. Legislating strong vehicle efficiency standards will demonstrate the government's commitment to acting in the best interests of Australians.

Taking strong action on climate change and implementing strong vehicle efficiency standards to reduce pollution, reduce health and fuel costs, and improve vehicle choice also aligns with the expectations and desires of the Australian public. By legislating robust standards, the government can earn the trust and support of not only environmentally conscious voters, but the general public, thereby enhancing its chances of success at the next election.

In conclusion, legislating strong vehicle efficiency standards equivalent to those already existing in Europe, the United States, and New Zealand is a crucial step towards mitigating climate change, improving air quality, fostering economic growth, and reducing the economic burden on families during the current inflationary period and beyond.

I urge you to consider these points and take decisive action for the benefit of current and future generations. To do otherwise will be to subject Australians to many years of poorer health, a higher cost of living and increased climate impacts. This is your chance in history to make a dramatic difference to people's lives and secure your legacy.

Regards,

Mark Rowntree