



26 May 2023

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

**The Fuel Efficiency Standard – Cleaner, Cheaper to Run Cars for Australia – response
to request for feedback**

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River are heartened to see the Australian Government working towards a fuel efficiency standard for Australia. Personal transport is one of Australia's fastest growing sources of greenhouse gas emissions.

Locally, the Shire has set a Net Zero 2030 target for corporate and community emissions. With transport emissions currently making up 51% of overall emissions, there is a strong desire for action in this space. In fact, our Climate Action Plan has a specific action to *Lobby Federal Government to set emission standards for vehicles and support transition to electric vehicles.*

Legislating national fuel efficiency standards are key to driving down transport emissions and supporting the transition to Electric Vehicles. Fuel efficiency standards are currently in place for 80% of the global car market, and Australia is one of the only wealthy countries without them, alongside Russia, Indonesia and Türkiye. Implementing fuel efficiency standards will secure a pipeline of affordable low and zero emissions vehicles for Australians.

It is important that the fuel efficiency standards are at least equivalent to those in other key markets to ensure that Australians experience the full market benefits. It is also vital to minimise loopholes and undertake regular review to adapt to a rapidly evolving market.

The transition to low and zero emissions vehicles will be critical to achieving Australia's national emissions reduction target of 43% on 2005 levels by 2030 and reaching net zero emissions by 2050. In fact, the Shire urges the Federal Government to view these targets as a floor rather than a ceiling as they are unlikely to be sufficient to limit warming to below 1.5C.

To further incentivise the switch to electric vehicles, the Shire encourages the Australian Government to:

1. Adopt Euro 6d noxious emission standards for light vehicles and improved fuel quality standards urgently.
2. Phase out fossil fuel subsidies within the next five years.
3. Work towards a ban on Internal Combustion Engines (ICE) vehicles by 2035.

Delivering a National Electric Vehicle Strategy is a positive first step, but there are a wide range of issues impacting the decarbonisation of transport which cannot be achieved through vehicle electrification alone. A Zero Emission Transport Strategy is required to address the full suite of technology, policy and behaviour change considerations crucial to decarbonising transportation in Australia. A key priority for this Strategy should be supporting mode shift through better public transport and infrastructure for walking and cycling.

The Shire looks forward to seeing local and national emissions reduction under a robust fuel efficiency standard and supporting policies.

Yours sincerely



Paula Cristoffanini
Shire President