



**Submission on the  
*Australian New Vehicle Efficiency Standard Consultation Paper.***

4 March 2024

Submitted online to the Australian Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts via [Have You Say](#)

<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure-transport-vehicles/vehicles/fuel-efficiency-standards/new-vehicle-efficiency-standard-cleaner-cheaper-run-cars-australia-have-your-say>

Please Note: This submission has been prepared by Council Officers and has not been endorsed or resolved by Council.

**Introduction**

We welcome the opportunity to respond to the *Australian New Vehicle Efficiency Standard Consultation Paper*. We acknowledge the Government's commitment to achieve a 43% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (below 2005 levels) by 2030 and to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

We support the planned introduction of a robust and ambitious fuel efficiency standard for passenger and light commercial vehicles as outlined in the National Electric Vehicle Strategy. This new standard will assist the transport sector to deliver on its fair share of reducing emissions and will also incentivise global car manufacturers to send EV's and low emission vehicles across all vehicle classes to Australia, so that we can share in the benefits already being enjoyed by millions of drivers around the world.

**Canterbury Bankstown LGA**

The City of Canterbury Bankstown is one of the most culturally, socially and economically diverse communities in the Sydney metropolitan area. We have a population of over 370,000 with 45% of households owning 2 or more cars. Approximately 20% of the City's emissions are from how our community travel<sup>1</sup>.

Council has a target of achieving net-zero by 2050 as well as leading and supporting the transition to electric transportation with a fleet including 35 electric vehicles. Whilst we will continue to advocate for a shift to more active and public transport creating more liveable spaces for people, there is also the need for the availability of more efficient, cost-effective and less polluting vehicles which will benefit our community and all Australians.

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<sup>1</sup> [Resilient Sydney](#)

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### **Australia is lagging behind other countries**

Fuel efficiency standards cover 85% of the global car market<sup>2</sup>. Without standards in Australia, passenger and commercial vehicles under 3.5 tonnes (including sedans, wagons, sports utility vehicles, utilities, 4-wheel drives, vans) on average use 40% more fuel than cars in the European Union, 20% more fuel than United States and 15% more than New Zealand<sup>3</sup>.

A strong fuel efficiency standard will benefit all Australians no matter what type of new car they buy. In international markets where fuel efficiency standards have already been put in place, the standards have had the effect of dramatically increasing the supply and range of electric vehicles while driving down their price. A transparent scheme will reward those car makers that supply greater volumes of low and zero-emission vehicles to Australia and penalise those that do not<sup>4</sup>.

The International Energy Agency *Net Zero by 2050 Roadmap* recommends a rapid shift away from fossil fuels requiring steps such as halting sales of new internal combustion engine passenger cars by 2035<sup>5</sup>. Australia, as a member country should support this target.

### **Benefits to Local Councils**

Fuel efficiency standards offer several benefits to local governments including:

1. Reduced air pollution and health benefits:
  - Implementing fuel efficiency standards will help reduce harmful emissions from vehicles, leading to cleaner air in cities and towns.
  - Fewer emissions will mean fewer health problems related to air pollution, such as respiratory illnesses and cardiovascular diseases.
2. Lower fuel and operational costs for fleet vehicles:
  - Fuel-efficient standards encourage the adoption of vehicles that consume less fuel, resulting in cost savings for local budgets.
  - Local government light vehicle fleet and can benefit from having EV's with reduced maintenance costs.
  - Lower fuel expenses allow local governments to allocate resources to other essential services.
3. Wider range of EV's and low-emission vehicles:
  - Strong fuel efficiency standards for Australia, will incentivise manufacturers to produce and provide a wider range of low and zero-emission vehicles for the Australian market.
  - Local governments can expand their fleets with electric or hybrid vehicles, contributing to a cleaner environment.
  - These vehicles also serve as examples for the community, encouraging residents to consider eco-friendly options.

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<sup>2</sup> [Climate Council Policy Briefing Paper 2023](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Dept of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water - Light Vehicles 2024](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Recommendations for a New Vehicle Efficiency Standard for Australia](#) Electric Vehicle Council

<sup>5</sup> [Net Zero by 2050 Roadmap IEA](#)

4. Supporting national security and energy independence:
  - Reducing dependence on fossil fuels enhances national security.
  - By promoting fuel efficiency, local governments can contribute to energy diversification and reduce reliance on imported oil.
5. Supporting path to net zero and support climate leadership:
  - While fuel efficiency standards initially focus on reducing emissions, they pave the way to support local government net-zero targets.
  - Over time, as technology advances, local governments can encourage the adoption of electric and potentially hydrogen-powered heavy transport vehicles.
  - Council fleet zero-emission vehicles contribute to a sustainable future, demonstrating climate leadership in combating climate change.

In summary, fuel efficiency standards benefit local governments by improving air quality, reducing costs, promoting cleaner technologies, and support achieving net zero targets.

#### **Benefits to local communities**

Fuel efficiency standards offer several benefits to local communities including:

1. Positive environmental impact:
  - Reduced fuel consumption leads to lower greenhouse gas emissions, and lower pollutants contributing to a cleaner environment.
2. Cost savings:
  - Fuel-efficient vehicles save money for community members. Lower fuel expenses mean more disposable income.
  - Reduced fuel consumption also benefits public transportation systems (e.g. buses), lowering operational costs.
3. Improved energy security:
  - Dependence on fossil fuels can be a vulnerability. Fuel efficiency standards promote energy diversification and reduce reliance on imported oil.
  - A more resilient energy system benefits the entire community.
4. Improved public health and well-being:
  - Cleaner air improves overall health, reducing respiratory illnesses and related healthcare costs.
  - Fuel efficiency standards will cap pollution from new cars. Communities with reduced pollution levels experience fewer health issues and enjoy a better living environment.
5. Innovation and technological advancements:
  - Fuel efficiency standards drive innovation in automotive engineering.
  - Fuel-agnostic policy from Federal Government provides direction and certainty, encouraging private investment in the technological development that is needed for the rapid transition to net zero.



- Community members benefit from a wider range of safer, more reliable, and technologically advanced vehicles.

6. Climate change mitigation:

- Fuel-efficient and zero emission vehicles contribute to global efforts to combat climate change.

In summary, fuel efficiency standards benefit communities by reducing carbon pollution, reducing fuel costs for low and zero emission vehicles, contribute to reducing the effects of climate change and creating healthier living conditions for all residents.

### Recommendation

This submission **supports the Government's preferred Option B.**

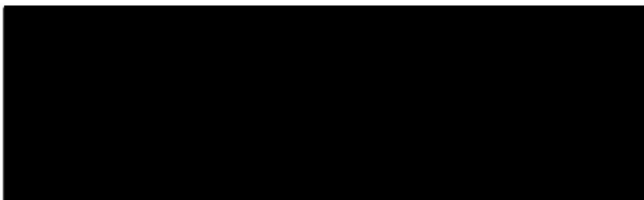
This is an ambitious standard that returns a high net benefit, a strong positive benefit-cost ratio (BCR) and a very large abatement to support achievement of Australia's commitments under the Paris Agreement and Climate Change Act 2022.

*"Option B is expected to achieve a 61% reduction in the average new car emissions from 2024 to 2029 to reach alignment with the US around 2028".*

Additionally, we believe that Option B will assist to:

- Ensure Australia's fuel efficiency standards are mandatory and legislated.
- Set Australia on a pathway to all new car sales being zero emissions by 2035.
- Align Australia's fuel efficiency standards with other markets like New Zealand, the United States and United Kingdom.
- Avoid excess credits that undermine the effectiveness of fuel efficiency standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission regarding the introduction of a Fuel Efficiency Standard for passenger and light commercial vehicles.



Yours Sincerely  
Helene Forsythe





# Organisation questionnaire response

Privacy Setting: I agree for my response to be published with my name and sition.

<b>What organisation do you represent?</b> (required)	Canterbury Bankstown Council
<b>What is your name?</b> (required)	Helene Forsythe
<b>What is your position at the organisation?</b> (required)	Team Leader Sustainability
<b>Please rank the proposed options in order of preference.</b> (optional)	Option A - 3rd, Option B - 1st, Option C - 2nd
<b>Briefly, what are your reasons for your choice?</b> (optional, 3000 character limit)	Option B provides an ambitious standard that returns a high net benefit, a strong positive benefit-cost ratio (BCR) and a very large abatement to support achievement of Australia's commitments under the Paris Agreement and Climate Change Act 2022. Fuel efficiency standards benefit local governments by improving air quality, reducing costs, promoting cleaner technologies, and support achieving net zero targets. Fuel efficiency standards benefit communities by reducing carbon pollution, reducing fuel costs, contribute to reducing the effects of climate change and creating healthier living conditions for all residents.
<b>Do you support the Government's preferred option (Option B)?</b> (optional)	Yes
<b>Do you have any feedback on the analysis approach and key assumptions used?</b> (optional, 3000 character limit)	NULL
<b>Briefly, describe how the NVES might impact your organisation</b> (optional, 3000 character limit)	Fuel efficiency standards offer several benefits to local governments include: Reduced air pollution and health benefits; Lower fuel and operational costs for fleet vehicles; Wider range of EV's and low-emission vehicles; Supporting national security and energy independence and Supporting path to net zero and support climate leadership. More details are provided in the attached submission, including benefits to Local Communities.
<b>Who should the regulated entity be?</b> (optional, 3000 character limit)	NULL

