



Newtown Climate Inc. Submission – New Vehicle Efficiency Standards – March 2024

Newtown Climate is an incorporated community climate organisation based in Newtown in Sydney's Inner West. Our vision is for Newtown to become Australia's first inner-city zero emissions community, through a transition that is fast, fair and fun.

Since our incorporation in 2021 we have talked to hundreds of people in our community who are concerned about climate change and would like to see stronger action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors. Many people in our community have taken action to reduce their own contribution to climate change, including by reducing car use and switching to more efficient vehicles, but are frustrated by government policy settings that have seen Australia's contribution to climate change continue to increase.

Transport is a key area for emissions reduction in our community, as it is nationally. With our electricity grid now decarbonising quickly, transport is expected to overtake electricity generation as the main source of Australia's domestic emissions. Climate pollution – and other forms of harmful air pollution – from transport in Australia is still getting worse, decades after governments formally acknowledged the greenhouse effect and promised to contribute to global efforts to address climate change. This is simply not good enough.

We thank you for the opportunity to make this submission, and look forward to seeing action to reduce climate pollution from transport as quickly as possible, including through these efficiency standards.

Efficiency standards are long overdue

We are glad that the federal government is moving to implement an efficiency standard for new vehicles. We also note that this is long overdue: other countries have had equivalent schemes in place for decades. Australia has now had several rounds of consultation on potential efficiency standards, including multiple rounds under the current government. We cannot afford any further delay, and urge the government to finalise the design of the scheme as quickly as possible and bring forward its commencement to 1 July 2024. Every month that the scheme is delayed will add to the level of carbon pollution in the atmosphere, with effects that last for generations.

Efficiency standards must be strong: Option C is the best option

Of the three options included in the government's impact analysis **our strong preference is for Option C**. The government's modelling shows that this option will drive the greatest and fastest reduction in air and climate pollution. We regard Option B as the bare minimum, and Option A as woefully insufficient.

We request that the government follow the example of overseas governments, and the repeated advice of the independent Climate Change Authority, and ensure that the design of the efficiency standards guarantees a full transition to zero emissions new vehicle fleets by the end of the next decade at the latest.

Active transport infrastructure is critically needed to save lives and reduce air and climate pollution

Active transport – including walking, cycling, e-bikes and other micromobility solutions - is the cheapest and most accessible form of zero-emissions transport. Unfortunately the design of almost all Australian streets and neighbourhoods makes them unsafe and inconvenient for pedestrians and bike riders, meaning that only the healthiest and most confident Australians are able to get around by active transport – and only if they're lucky. This is not good enough. We call on the government to rectify this situation through urgent investment in a national active transport infrastructure program, to make active transport a realistic option for most people and for most trips.



Organisation questionnaire response

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

What organisation do you represent? (required)	Newtown Climate
Please rank the proposed options in order of preference. (optional)	Option A - 3rd, Option B - 2nd, Option C - 1st
Briefly, what are your reasons for your choice? (optional, 3000 character limit)	The government's modelling shows that this option will drive the greatest and fastest reduction in air and climate pollution. Option C is the only scale that responds to the climate crisis with the urgency required.
Do you support the Government's preferred option (Option B)? (optional)	Yes
Do you have any feedback on the analysis approach and key assumptions used? (optional, 3000 character limit)	NULL
Briefly, describe how the NVES might impact your organisation (optional, 3000 character limit)	Our community is very keen to reduce its contribution to climate change in any way possible. The proposed NVES will help to bring low-emissions vehicles - which are also cheaper to run and much more fun to drive - within reach of more people more quickly. We also look forward to breathing much cleaner air on our streets and in our cities!
Who should the regulated entity be? (optional, 3000 character limit)	NULL