

**From:** [John Harders](#)  
**To:** [Renewable Energy](#)  
**Subject:** Tasmanian Renewable Energy Action Plan ...  
**Date:** Sunday, 24 May 2020 6:38:55 PM

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Minister for State Growth

**RE: Tasmanian Renewable Energy Action Plan.**

Having read the draft plan for a future Tasmania, I am unexpectedly and genuinely impressed at the proposals.

However this plan must not just be a 'feel good' political document about lowering emissions. Actions speak louder than words. We live in demanding times and the climate situation increasingly poses an existential threat like never before. Tasmania has more in natural renewable energy resources than many other nations, and as acknowledged, is enviably one of the lowest carbon emitters in the world.

Given that our hydro produces almost 100% of our electricity (with more wind turbines soon to achieve 100% renewable electricity generation), it leaves transport, consuming expensive imported fossil fuel, as a significant source of Tasmania's greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, fossil fuel consumption poses a considerable expense for both government and the private sector. The community as a whole must meet this cost. Fossil fuel is also a finite resource and currently imported at great expense. This leaves our island state highly vulnerable during any disruption in supply. This need not be so.

Given the now advanced technology in electric vehicles (EV's), a target approaching zero transport emissions is possible. To reduce Tasmania's transport emissions and fuel costs, in addition to energy security, encouraging the uptake of zero emission vehicles seems obvious. What a great promotional aspect for this great state of Tasmania it would be to point out that the vast majority of our vehicles are actually powered by locally produced renewable electrical energy sourced from hydro-generators, solar and wind power. An EV is a versatile and efficient form of transport that will mostly be re-charged overnight from any household 10 amp or 15 amp power point. Out on the road, faster DC public chargers, now increasingly coming on-line (thanks in part to government initiative), can be readily accessed if needed.

Whilst the Tasmanian Government currently supports the rollout of public charging stations for EV's around the state, meaningful support for the uptake of electric vehicles in Tasmania is essentially limited to this. Whilst this is certainly commendable, may I respectfully suggest that to the prospective EV purchaser, charging is only one determining factor. Forward-thinking jurisdictions in many developed nations around the globe are currently offering much more. At minimal cost to a forward thinking government this can be achieved.

Currently a Tasmanian resident, considering the purchase an EV must pay almost twice the price of an equivalent petrol vehicle. This high purchase cost often excludes many potential purchasers from acquiring a zero emissions vehicle. The increased use of EV's will contribute to a cleaner/greener and sustainable environment for all.

The Tasmanian Government has acknowledged the importance of taking leadership in encouraging the use of EV's. This is without doubt an admirable position to adopt. If this is really true, can I suggest government consider a meaningful reduction in the initial cost

of acquiring any zero emission vehicle, including EV's.

We can lead the nation on this ... and take a special Tasmanian pride in doing so.

Thanks for your consideration.

John Harders  
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