

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Clean Cars](#)  
Subject: Feedback on Clean Car Discount  
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To whom it may concern,

I have owned an electric vehicle in New Zealand for 15 months. While I do agree in principle with imposing a levy on high-polluting vehicles, I do not agree with using the proceeds of that levy to put more electric vehicles on the road by reducing the purchase price. New Zealand is not yet ready for a massive number of EVs on the road, and the money can be better spent by providing a better experience for the ones already on the road. These changes benefit *all* users, not just newcomers.

At the moment, it is barely possible to drive a typical EV from Wellington to Auckland without a considerable amount of advance planning, mostly due to the lack of public charging stations along the route. A 6-hour trip to Taupo took 10 hours in the EV, for a number of reasons - the reduced range required a detour and 100% top-up in Palmerston North to make it work, and I needed to drive slower to ensure I made it to the next station. More stations need to be made available along high-capacity routes: each charging station can only support one vehicle at a time, so if there's a queue of vehicles all needing to top up their drained battery, the time required to charge becomes even longer. Long distance travel becomes infeasible.

My vehicle is 8 years old with an aging battery. If I wanted to replace the battery tomorrow, I could not do so at any cost. Batteries for these vehicles are next to impossible to find in New Zealand - due to the dangers of transporting lithium batteries in the freight, going overseas for one is not an option. Government needs to consider ways to solve this problem, because putting more vehicles on the road exacerbates it. It would be naive to assume 100% of these batteries would end up as storage for the grid - even a small percentage going to landfill would be an environmental nightmare.

In conclusion, money taken from a levy should *first* be used to support *all* electric vehicles on the road, new and old. I'd suggest any of these:

- \* Install more public chargers.
- \* Incentivise property owners (public or private) to install public charging stations on their properties.
- \* Ensure new and used batteries are more available in New Zealand
- \* Fund environmental programmes to recycle or retire batteries at the end of their useful lifecycle.
- \* Considerations should be made for lighter unconventional electric vehicles with different charging needs, including bikes, motorcycles, and scooters

Infrastructure must be prioritised over incentivising the purchase of new vehicles. Putting more electric vehicles on the road is a great idea, but only if the capacity to support them is there first. At present, it is not.

Thank you for reading.

Elliot Sawyer  
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