

## Feedback by

## Hamilton City Council

### Ministry of Transport's Discussion Paper on a Clean Car Standard and Clean Car Discount - Moving the Light Vehicle Fleet to Low Emissions

23 August 2019

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Hamilton City Council (HCC) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the Ministry of Transport on its 'Discussion Paper on a Clean Car Standard and Clean Car Discount - Moving the Light Vehicle Fleet to Low Emissions'.
- 1.2 HCC notes that the Government wants meaningful change to reduce vehicle emissions by introducing a Clean Car Standard policy and a Clean Car Discount policy – both policies aimed exclusively at improving the quality of vehicles entering New Zealand and being applied to all new and used light vehicles first registered in New Zealand after 2021.
- 1.3 Given that light vehicles account for nearly 70% of all transport emissions in New Zealand, HCC supports the Government's aim to improve the quality of vehicles being imported into the country as well as the introduction of the car discount scheme that will incentivise the purchase of fuel-efficient vehicles and the uptake of electric vehicles (EVs).
- 1.4 Implementation of these two policies in 2021 should result in an increase in more modern and fuel-efficient light vehicles on the country's roads, which in turn will assist in reducing emissions.

#### 2.0 SPECIFIC COMMENTS

- 2.1 HCC resolved on 19 July 2016 to adopt a set of 11 Sustainability Principles to underpin how sustainability is considered in its decision-making processes and operations - refer [here](#)
- 2.2 In particular, principles 5 and 7 emphasise HCC's commitment to low carbon transport options and encouragement of the uptake of EVs in Hamilton i.e.:
  - **Sustainability Principle 5:** HCC promotes walking, cycling, public transport and other low carbon transport options.
  - **Sustainability Principle 7:** HCC supports the use of renewable energy and uptake of electric vehicles.
- 2.3 HCC is currently in the process of developing a Climate Action Plan for Hamilton. This will include establishing an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions, emissions targets and the agreement of key actions for Council, businesses, organisations and the community to move us towards achieving these targets.
- 2.4 As with other metro cities in New Zealand, the transportation sector will be a key contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in Hamilton.

- 2.5 HCC envisage that the finalised policies will be promoted to the city's residents (as part of the Climate Action Plan to be developed for Hamilton) to have more fuel-efficient vehicles (including EVs) in Hamilton.
- 2.6 HCC is already undertaking various actions that mitigate emissions from motor vehicles in Hamilton.
- 2.7 Examples include:
- \$52 million of biking plan projects was approved in the 10-Year Plan.
  - Free scheduled buses for 18's and under within the Hamilton network on weekends and public holidays began in July 2019.
  - Ongoing traffic signal optimisation to ensure efficient traffic movement e.g. in May 2019 there has been a 27% reduction in average travel time from Mill-Seddon to Mill-Victoria locations.
  - 40 new bus shelters have been installed, along with 41 LED solar lights into new or existing shelters. Accessible kerbing for bus shelters was also installed at 21 locations across the city.
  - The Council is working with Government and other partners on progressing a passenger rail service between Hamilton and Auckland.
  - Implementation of a subsidised electric bike scheme for the Council staff is anticipated to assist in reducing congestion and carbon emissions, support staff health and set an example for other large employers in the city.
  - HCC plans to identify further opportunities to encourage utilisation of low emission vehicles within its own vehicle fleet and the wider Hamilton community.
  - Discussions are underway for the potential installation of EV charging stations at Hamilton Lake, Hamilton Gardens and Hamilton Zoo.
  - HCC has entered a three-year trial with Loop (owned by Waikato car dealer Ebbett Hamilton) to support the new pilot car share scheme that allows people to rent a car by the minute or hour and has earmarked 14 car parking spaces around the edges of the city centre for the company's exclusive use free of charge.
- 2.8 HCC has a focus on purchasing safe and fuel-efficient vehicles for its light vehicle fleet and will look to using the government's finalised policies to assist in decision-making when purchasing new vehicles for its light fleet.
- 2.9 HCC closely monitors its fleet for fuel efficiency. In 2017/18 an average of 9.98 litres per 100 km was recorded for HCC's light vehicle fleet - achieving our internal target of 10 litres per 100km.
- 2.10 We do note however that the purchase price differential between petrol/diesel vehicles and EVs is still relatively large.
- 2.11 Given that many organisations (e.g. government agencies and local government) have relatively large light vehicle fleets, HCC seeks clarification around how the incentives in the Ministry of Transport's two policies are envisaged to be accommodated within pricing structures such as the whole of Government Supply Contract.
- 2.12 In addition, the increase in EVs will clearly create more demand for charging infrastructure throughout the country.
- 2.13 HCC is now seeing a commitment from larger retail property owners (e.g. Kiwi Property, Countdown etc.) to provide charging infrastructure to support EVs.
- 2.14 We would still like clarification from the Ministry of Transport around whether the responsibility and funding for such infrastructure sits with the NZ Transport Agency, or if it's envisaged to be met through the private sector.

### 3.0 FURTHER INFORMATION

- 3.1 Should the Ministry of Transport require clarification of the above points, or additional information, please contact Sean Hickey (General Manager Strategy and Communications) on [REDACTED] - email [REDACTED] in the first instance.

Yours faithfully



**Richard Briggs**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**