

Item No: C05/24-508

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION - ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING STATIONS (C07/23-346)

Directorate: Environment and Planning
Responsible Officer: Director Environment & Planning
Community Strategic Plan Goal: *Delivering Sustainable Infrastructure and Services*

SUMMARY

This report provides a response to the Notice of Motion – Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations resolved at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 5 July 2023. It recommends that Council place the *Draft Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Policy* and supporting Guideline on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the report.**
- 2. Place the Draft *Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Policy* and supporting Guideline on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, and subsequently adopt the document if no adverse submissions are received.**

REPORT

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 5 July 2023, the following Notice of Motion (C07/23-346) was resolved regarding Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations:

“With the progression of the draft Smart Places Strategy and Action Plan, a key action is to progress investigations on electric vehicle charging in Cumberland. Given the significant interest in the matter and opportunities to work with other levels of Government, that Council:

- 1. Immediately commence investigative work to develop a policy for the roll out of Electric Vehicle Charging points in Cumberland, with a focus on Council facilities and landholdings.*
- 2. As part of this work, consider proposed arrangements for the ongoing management of these facilities, including financial and operational benefits and impacts to Council.*
- 3. Identify and progress applications through available funding sources outside of Council, such as current State and Federal grant opportunities, including the*

Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) Innovation in Charging Grant Program.”

This report provides a response to this Notice of Motion.

Background

Transport emissions contribute up to one third (~5.8 million tonnes) of Western Sydney’s total Greenhouse gas emissions, with light vehicles constituting half of the transport emissions (Western Sydney Electric Vehicle Roadmap 2022-2030). The introduction of Electric Vehicles (EVs) is an approach that can contribute to a reduction of emissions that support Federal and State policies in this area.

Based on the 2021 Census, a total of over 60,000 vehicles are registered at private occupied dwellings in the Cumberland LGA. While only a small proportion of these vehicles are battery operated EVs (around 900 vehicles in March 2024), this figure is projected to increase over time. The growing proportion of EVs will require the provision of appropriate charging infrastructure. Currently, publicly accessible charging stations are available in selected shopping centres and petrol stations, as shown in Figure 1. However, there are opportunities to increase the provision of publicly accessible charging stations on Council owned land by a third party provider or by Council itself.

Draft Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Policy

The *Draft Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Policy* and supporting Guideline have been developed by Council officers to provide a framework in response to the provision of EV charging infrastructure on Council land. The documents cover a range of areas, including approval processes, design considerations, charging specifications, site selection, advertising, financial commitments and leasing arrangements of public EV charging infrastructure on Council owned and managed land. The documents enable Council to facilitate and prepare for the growing demand to rollout publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure for our community.

It is now recommended that Council place the *Draft Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Policy* and supporting Guideline on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, and subsequently adopt the document if no adverse submissions are received. Should the Policy be adopted, the Guideline identified in this report will support the implementation of the Policy.

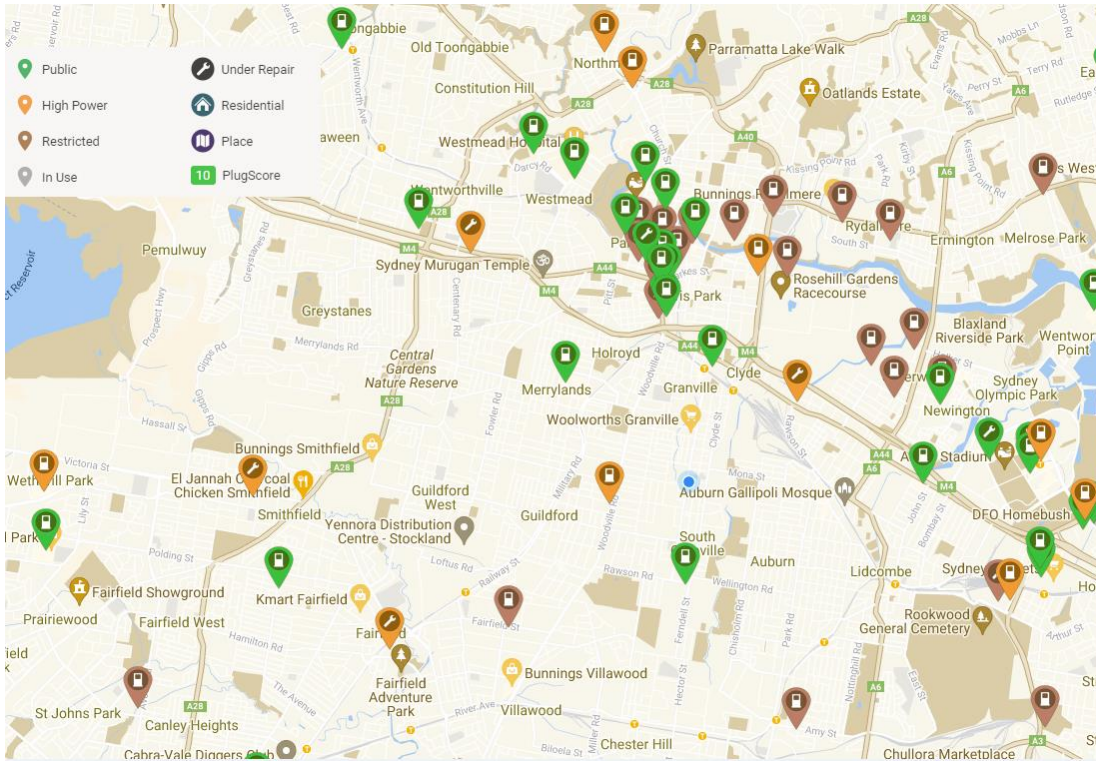


Figure 1. Map of EV Charging Infrastructure in Cumberland (Source: <https://www.plugshare.com/>)

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Grant Opportunities

Council officers have identified a range of grant opportunities for the provision of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, as outlined in Table 1. While there are currently no open rounds, it is anticipated that future round will be opened for Council to consider an application as appropriate.

Grant	Status	Information
Driving the Nation Program – Innovation in Charging (Federal)	Open	Council is eligible for this initiative; however, the criteria include the requirement to commit to a minimum \$0.5M co-contribution funding. Council must also acquire access to supply chains in the form of established infrastructure and demonstrate a pathway from council use to commercial deployment in an ongoing commitment. Where chargers are to be deployed, these should be available to the public
Electric Vehicle Destination Charging (State)	Open, but not eligible	Cumberland City Council is not currently eligible for this grant. We may be named as an eligible LGA in future rounds. If so, this grant can be revisited at that time
Electric Vehicle Kerbside Charging (State)	Closed, awaiting future round	Cumberland City Council may be eligible for this funding initiative. The grant requires a minimum of 4 EV charging sites with a total combined minimum of 8 EV charge ports (e.g. 4 dual port EV chargers, 8 single port EV chargers or a combination thereof). The NSW Government will contribute 80% of the total installation cost and equipment costs capped at \$10,000 and 80% of EV charger software subscription for 3 years, with a total maximum government contribution of \$800,000

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Subject to endorsement by Council, the Draft Policy and supporting Guideline will be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Draft Policy and supporting Guideline on EV charging infrastructure aligns with Council's Community Strategic Plan, Smart Places Strategy and Action Plan, as well as the NSW Government's Electric Vehicle Strategy.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

The Policy and supporting guideline on EV charging infrastructure provides a framework to minimise risks to Council and the community in this area.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

While there are no current financial implications, there may be a funding commitment required should a grant opportunity on EV charging infrastructure be open where Council is eligible and interested to apply.

CONCLUSION

This report provides a response to the Notice of Motion – Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations resolved at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 5 July 2023. It recommends that Council endorse the *Draft Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Policy* and supporting Guideline being placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. Information on grant opportunities is also provided for consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Policy
2. Draft Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Guideline