

Electric vehicles to charge regional Victorian recovery

AS VICTORIANS START TO plan post-lockdown road-trips, a new network of electric vehicle (EV) chargers launching today will make it easier for EV drivers to tour Victoria's beautiful regions.

A new network of more than 20 electric vehicle chargers across 17 sites in Central and Western Victoria, is being rolled out across 12 regional local government areas. The launch, part of the 'Charging the Regions' project, coincides with World Electric Vehicle Day, which celebrates the enormous surge in electric transport across the globe.

Local EV advocates say that the charging network, the first of its kind in the area, will provide a seamless connection experience for EV drivers, and will help to drive much-needed tourism to regional Victorian towns to support recovery from the economic downturn.

Rob Law, executive officer of Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance, the local government network that is driving the project, says that increasing the charger network will help to boost jobs numbers and EV uptake in regional Victoria.

"The Charging the Regions network will ensure that regional Victoria does not get left behind as more and more electric cars hit the road," he said.

"It will boost jobs, stimulate EV tourism and encourage people who live in regional Victoria to think about 'going electric' on their next vehicle purchase. A great example of a positive economic stimulus project delivered in partnership between the Victorian Government and local councils."

The project is being delivered by the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance in partnership with the Victorian Government and the following councils:

- Mildura Rural City Council
- Swan Hill Rural City Council
- Gannawarra Shire Council
- Buloke Shire Council
- Mount Alexander Shire Council
- City of Greater Bendigo
- Campaspe Shire Council
- Greater Shepparton City Council
- Loddon Shire Council
- Central Goldfields Shire Council
- Wellington Shire Council
- Whittlesea Shire Council

[The Victorian Government is contributing \\$664,000](#) towards building charging stations across six local government areas in north western Victoria, with the addition six councils providing their own funding for charging stations.

Beyhard Jafari, CEO of the Electric Vehicle Council, said that the project represents a great example of positive economic stimulus.

"More charging stations are part of what is indeed to kickstart the electric vehicle revolution in regional Victoria," he said.

"A recent report found that 68% of Australians want governments to provide more public charging infrastructure. This is a great stimulus project that can help us build back better."

Charging stations will be located on council owned land and in priority locations. Although there may be a free period, it is likely that each council will eventually charge to use the network to cover the costs of the energy bills in line with other fast chargers around the country.

The Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance has released an open tender that will close on 6 October 2020 for the supply, installation and maintenance of the charging network. The tender is requesting a mix of 25kw and 50kw DC chargers across the participating councils.

For details on the tender please visit www.eprocure.com.au/centralgoldfields

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