



RANGITIKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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evchargingstrategy@transport.govt.nz

To whom it may concern

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Government's discussion document on Charging Our Future strategy. Council has previously advocated for the mitigation and reduction of carbon emissions and limiting the impact of climate change through the submission made in 2019 on the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill and through responses to submitters on our previous annual plan. Rangitikei District Council has been supportive of previous initiatives and agrees that strategic planning around electric vehicles and associated infrastructure is needed to support high demand on the grid and to plan for infrastructure in our main centres.

When well planned, charging stations can add to positive local and visitor perception of a location as a destination or travel stop. State Highways 1 and 3 pass through the district, including a number of our towns such as Taihape, Hunterville, Bulls, and Turakina. These are key routes during summer holidays and public holidays. We support the government's initiative to co-fund some chargers and urge the government to consider prioritising areas with high traffic and limited charging infrastructure available, such as in the Rangitikei.

We believe that a well-functioning EV charging system would have EVs chargers available where people are already planning to be, with a charging speed that matches how long they will be there. An example of EV chargers in the Rangitikei district is our new EV charger installed in Bulls behind Te Matapihi Hall. This 300kW hyper rapid charger was the first of its kind in the Manawātū- Whanganui region and is powered by 100% renewable electricity sourced from wind, hydro and solar. Overall emission can be driven by the source of electricity as well as use of the vehicle. This project was support by Council but also other stakeholders- Ngati Parewahawaha, Ngati Kauwhata, and chargenet. We encourage the roll-out of this infrastructure, especially public funded chargers, includes all stakeholders in considering appropriate locations.

In addition, we recommend the Government also prioritise rural and isolated areas. Rural communities are likely to face greater challenges in shifting towards lower-emissions transport options and EVs. Supporting charging infrastructure will play an important role in supporting rural and lower-density communities to transition towards lower-emissions transport. As a district that is rural and is prominently in the agricultural and manufacturing sectors, we encourage the government to take into account the uptake of the full range of electric vehicles, such as heavy and commercial vehicles.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. We look forward to seeing the Government's plan on how they will tackle the challenges we have identified and how they will support our district's transition to a low-carbon future.

Yours sincerely

Andy Watson
Mayor of the Rangitikei

Making this place home.