

YOUR
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FOR MACKELLAR



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**Dr
Sophie
SCAMPS**

Creating a renewable energy superpower, ending government waste and supporting small business – Economic Policy Statement

Our economy is at a crossroads. The decisions that are made in the next term of parliament will shape our economy and our nation for decades to come.

We stand on the precipice of what NSW's Liberal Treasurer Matt Kean says¹, "is the biggest economic opportunity that our country has ever seen." What Matt Kean is talking about of course – is Australia's opportunity to become a renewable energy superpower in a net zero world.

There are already amazing businesses and entrepreneurs here in Mackellar who are creating jobs in renewable energy and clean tech industries, and we need to support them to continue to grow and create jobs. While the Business Council of Australia estimates that by investing in technologies, programs and policies that aim to achieve net zero by 2050 at the latest will help us reap an economic dividend of \$890 billion and 195,000 new jobs².

But our future prosperity in a net zero world isn't secure yet.

Not only do we need to invest in renewable energy and the clean tech industries of the future, but the next parliament must see a return to fiscal responsibility.

Scott Morrison has racked up nearly \$1 trillion in debt³. While a small portion of that debt was necessary – through the JobKeeper subsidy for example – this government's approach to economic management has been characterised by reckless spending, government waste and corrupt pork-barrelling and rorting in a desperate bid to buy votes.

As an independent I will provide much needed balance and oversight on economic spending and will ensure a return to fiscal responsibility in our parliament as we pay down our national debt while investing in the services we all need and deserve.

Rising inflation⁴ and cost of living pressures are also hitting many Australians with the cost of petrol, groceries, electricity, rents, our mortgages, health and childcare are all going up – and wages are not keeping pace⁵. While I support the legislated Stage 3 income tax cuts⁶, unfortunately the rest of Scott Morrison's plan to tackle cost of living pressures, is really just a plan to get himself re-elected. The latest budget had plenty of short term sugar hits, such as the cut in fuel excise, but in a month or two, those short term sweeteners will end and we'll all be facing the same pressures again.

The facts are clear, the reason petrol prices are so high is because we are dependent on foreign oil. Part of the reason groceries are also going up, is due to higher transport costs caused by oil prices.

Electricity prices have also risen 141% in the last 12 months⁷ – mostly due to the price of coal

¹ <https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/energy-transition-is-our-biggest-opportunity-kean-20220503-p5ai8h>

² <https://www.bca.com.au/achieving-net-zero-with-more-jobs-and-stronger-regions>

³ <https://www.aph.gov.au/About-Parliament/Parliamentary-Departments/Parliamentary-Library/pubs/rp/BudgetReview202122/CommonwealthDebt>

⁴ <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/price-indexes-and-inflation/consumer-price-index-australia/latest-release>

⁵ <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/price-indexes-and-inflation/wage-price-index-australia/latest-release>

⁶ <https://www.aph.gov.au/About-Parliament/Parliamentary-Departments/Parliamentary-Library/pubs/rp/BudgetReview202122/ExtensionLowAndMiddleIncomeTaxOffset#:~:text=Stage%20three%20is%20scheduled%20to,and%20%24200%2C000%20will%20be%2030%25>

⁷ <https://www.aemo.com.au/newsroom/media-release/electricity-prices-driven-by-outages-and-higher-generation-costs-in-volatile>

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increasing and ageing, unreliable coal fired power plants breaking down. The best way to deal with cost of living pressures is to invest now in cheaper and more reliable renewable energy and electric vehicles (EVs). If we can wean Australia off our dependence on fossil fuels and foreign oils – we will no longer be held hostage to international events out of our control.

We must also tackle the ingrained gender inequality in our economy. It is not fair that a woman gets paid less for a days' work than a male, and I will take steps to promote gender economic equality and grow our economy.

Finally, while it may be a cliché – it's true to say that small businesses are the backbone of our community here in Mackellar. There are over 35,000 small businesses on the Northern Beaches⁸, and many I have met in Mackellar say they have been doing it tough over the last two years.

As your independent MP for Mackellar, I will not only be a safe pair of hands for our economy, but I will work with all sides of parliament to make economic policy and economic reforms better. This election is not only crucial when it comes to climate change, integrity in parliament or for our health and mental health services. It is also a crucial election for the future of our economy and prosperity.

As the Member for Mackellar, I will work to grow our economy and support local businesses by:

- 1. Making Australia a renewable energy superpower with policies that support new jobs and industries in the global cleantech and energy boom**
- 2. Ensuring a return to fiscal discipline by stopping waste, government rorts and pork barrelling and paying down Australia's national debt**
- 3. Reducing cost of living pressures faced by Australians**
- 4. Promoting policies and programs that support gender economic equality**
- 5. Supporting small and medium sized businesses in Mackellar**
- 6. Making electric vehicles accessible to everyday Australians**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sophie Scamps".

Dr Sophie Scamps

Independent candidate for Mackellar

[march-quarter](#)

⁸ <https://economy.id.com.au/northern-beaches/business-trends>

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1. Making Australia a renewable energy superpower with policies that support new jobs and industries in the global cleantech and energy boom

Australia has the natural resources required to become a renewable energy superpower.

Australia's Clean Energy Innovation Fund, managed jointly by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) has successfully supported renewable innovation over the last decade. ARENA alone has supported 618 projects and \$1.87 billion in grant funding, unlocking \$6.92 billion in total investment⁹. It is a program that is regarded as highly successful by those in the industry.

These programs are supporting Australian businesses to help grow our economy, including the renaissance of our manufacturing sector as we become pioneers in green steel and aluminium - traditionally emissions intensive heavy industries. Currently Australia is among the top five producers of most of the world's key mineral commodities¹⁰ used in products (including batteries) to drive a low carbon economy, but those materials are sent offshore for processing. With the right policies and funding, Australia can adopt an approach to mine and refine cleantech minerals and manufacture cleantech products, like batteries, right here in Australia, expanding our mining and manufacturing sectors and creating thousands of jobs. Here on the Northern Beaches we already have a local business that has made some of Australia's first onshore-manufactured batteries¹¹.

However, ARENA has been subject to funding cuts by successive Coalition governments. This continued in the last Budget, as Scott Morrison announced further cuts to ARENA and CEFC with expenditure on climate change programs expected to be 35% lower in 2025-26 than it is right now¹².

The Morrison Government has also attacked the integrity of ARENA by attempting to alter its remit to allow it to support the fossil fuel industry, including unproven and expensive Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology and non-green hydrogen projects¹³.

Australia's major trading partners are transitioning to net zero and some are seriously considering green trade tariffs¹⁴, putting our fossil fuel dominated export industry under threat. By value, over 70 per cent of our coal and gas exports are to China, Japan and Korea, all countries which have committed to net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by or before 2060, while all countries have flagged they expect to decrease the volume of fossil fuel imports in the coming decades. This leaves Australia's coal and gas industries exposed to a significant decline in demand¹⁵.

The Morrison Government's Net Zero Plan¹⁶ proposed nothing new to address climate change and has many shortcomings. It fails to provide a plan for decarbonisation that will permit an orderly transition to net zero in Australia. It also 'picks winners' and supports unproven technologies and

⁹ <https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/taylor/media-releases/arena-board-appointments>

¹⁰ https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/BriefingBook43p/mineralssector

¹¹ <https://www.empowerenergy.com.au>

¹² <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/mar/29/australia-federal-budget-2022-climate-environment-morrison-government-coalition-great-barrier-reef-angus-taylor>

¹³ <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/mar/28/morrison-plan-to-allow-renewable-agency-to-fund-fossil-fuels-blocked-by-liberal-led-committee>

¹⁴ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/feb/13/carbon-tariffs-what-are-they-and-what-could-they-mean-for-australia>

¹⁵ https://www.igcc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/IGCC-Investors-role-in-an-Equitable-Transition-to-net-zero-emissions_FINAL-15072021-copy.pdf

¹⁶ <https://www.industry.gov.au/sites/default/files/October%202021/document/australias-long-term-emissions-reduction-plan.pdf>

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fails to provide adequate funding for the economy-wide transition to net zero. For instance, the Coalition's electric vehicle (EV) policy for Australia provides no support for EVs. The plan fails to recognise the importance of taking climate action in safeguarding Australia's security and energy independence¹⁷.

As the Member for Mackellar I will work to:

- Support policies that stimulate Australia's net zero manufacturing sector including but not limited to the Coalition's Critical Minerals Strategy¹⁸
- Increase funding for ARENA and CEFC and protect their integrity by ensuring their remit does not change to include support for the fossil fuel industry
- Support changes to Australia's Hydrogen Strategy, to align with the Liberal NSW Government's Hydrogen strategy, to ensure it focuses solely on green hydrogen
- Stop the relaxation of approvals for fossil fuel projects¹⁹
- Protect Australia's coastline by supporting policies to stop the drilling for fossil fuels off Australia's coastline, aligning with the Liberal government's recent cancellation of the PEP-11 licence that would have allowed drilling for oil and gas off the coast of my electorate
- Support an inquiry into policy measures to support the equitable transition of communities impacted by the renewable energy transition

¹⁷ <https://www.aslccg.org/open-letter/>

¹⁸ <https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/2022-critical-minerals-strategy>

¹⁹ <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/mar/15/coalition-to-allow-some-mining-projects-to-bypass-federal-environmental-approvals>

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2. Ensuring a return to fiscal discipline by stopping waste, government rorts and pork barrelling and paying down Australia's national debt

The next parliament must see a return to fiscal responsibility. Scott Morrison has racked up nearly \$1 trillion in debt²⁰. While a small portion of that debt was necessary – through for example the JobKeeper subsidy – even this program included wasteful spending. It is estimated that nearly \$13 billion of JobKeeper subsidies went to companies who were ineligible to receive the taxpayer-funded payments²¹.

This government's approach to economic management has been characterised by reckless spending, government waste and corrupt pork-barrelling and rorting in a desperate bid to buy votes. We have seen billions wasted by the Liberal Party on rorts including:

- \$660 million on the corrupt commuter carpark scheme²²
- \$100 million sports rorts²³
- \$100 million in the rorted Community Infrastructure Grants program

While in addition, the Morrison government spent \$145 million on advertising alone last financial year – more than what multinationals Coles and McDonalds spent.

There has also been reports of \$34 billion promised to the Nationals in a secret deal²⁴ to secure their support for Scott Morrison's unlegislated 2050 net zero target. Already \$7.4 billion of these funds have been allocated to dams in regional Australia that have no business case²⁵.

As an independent I will provide much needed balance and oversight on economic spending and will ensure a return to fiscal responsibility in our parliament as we pay down our national debt while investing in the services we all need and deserve.

As the Member for Mackellar I will work to:

- Establish a strong federal anti-corruption commission by supporting Helen Haines MP's *Australian Federal Integrity Commission Bill*
- Ensure the Australian National Audit Office is adequately funded over the long term
- Support fiscally responsible moves to reduce the deficit and pay down Australia's national debt
- Close loopholes that allow multinationals to avoid paying their fair share of tax in Australia
- Phase out taxpayer subsidies to multinational fossil fuel companies²⁶

²⁰https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/rp/BudgetReview202122/CommonwealthDebt

²¹<https://www.afr.com/rear-window/josh-frydenberg-s-incoherent-jobkeeper-logic-20210829-p58mxf>

²²<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/internal-documents-show-department-was-unsure-if-commuter-car-park-projects-had-merit-20211014-p58zwn.html>

²³<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/jul/21/sports-rorts-coalition-approved-at-least-six-grants-without-an-application-form-documents-reveal>

²⁴<https://www.afr.com/policy/energy-and-climate/the-mega-cost-of-getting-barnaby-joyce-to-back-net-zero-20220329-p5a93f>

²⁵<https://australiainstitute.org.au/post/7-4b-dam-announcement-doesnt-hold-economic-water-research/>

²⁶<https://australiainstitute.org.au/post/australian-fossil-fuel-subsidies-surge-to-11-6-billion-in-2021-22/#:~:text=Fossil%20fuel%20subsidies%20cost%20%2411.6,21%20total%20of%20%2410.3%20billion.>



3. Reducing cost of living pressures faced by Australians

Australians are facing significant cost of living pressures right now. The price of petrol, groceries, electricity, rents, our mortgages, health and childcare are all going up. With inflation at 5.1%²⁷, the biggest jump since the GST was introduced 22 years ago²⁸, wages are not keeping pace, up just 2.3%²⁹.

Unfortunately, Scott Morrison's plan to tackle cost of living pressures, is really just a plan to get himself re-elected. The latest budget had plenty of short term sugar hits, such as the cut in fuel excise, but in a month or two, those short term sweeteners will end and we'll all be facing the same pressures again.

The facts are clear – the reason petrol prices are so high is that we are dependent on foreign oil. Part of the reason our groceries are going up, is also due to higher transport costs because of petrol prices. Electricity prices have also risen 141% in the last 12 months³⁰ – all due to the price of coal increasing.

The best way to deal with cost of living pressures is to invest now in cheaper and more reliable renewable energy and EVs. If we can wean Australia off our dependence on fossil fuels and foreign oils – we will no longer be held hostage to international events out of our control.

The next parliament must also tackle housing affordability, as I know many young people in particular fear they will never be able to own their own home here on the Northern Beaches and we need to do better than what the current member for Mackellar is advocating for – giving property developers free reign which could lead to land clearing and over development here on the Northern Beaches that will threaten our way of life.

As the Member for Mackellar I will work to:

- Support investment in cheap, clean and reliable renewable energy to reduce energy bills
- Increase the uptake of electric vehicles to reduce Australia's dependence on foreign oil
- Support universal affordable childcare
- Support the legislated Stage 3 personal income tax cuts³¹
- Reinstate the National Housing Supply Council³²
- Support investment in social and affordable housing so there is a mix of supply
- Work with state and local governments so planning laws get the right balance between increasing supply with creating liveable suburbs, preventing overdevelopment and protecting the environment

²⁷ <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/price-indexes-and-inflation/consumer-price-index-australia/latest-release>

²⁸ <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/price-surge-hits-consumers-at-fastest-rate-since-2000-20220427-p5agdn.html>

²⁹ <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/price-indexes-and-inflation/wage-price-index-australia/latest-release>

³⁰ <https://www.aemo.com.au/newsroom/media-release/electricity-prices-driven-by-outages-and-higher-generation-costs-in-volatile-march-quarter>

³¹ https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/rp/BudgetReview202122/ExtensionLowAndMiddleIncomeTaxOffset#:~:text=Stage%20three%20is%20scheduled%20to,and%20%24200%2C000%20will%20be%2030%25

³² <https://treasury.gov.au/programs-initiatives-consumers-community/the-national-housing-supply-council>



4. Promoting policies and programs that support gender economic equality

Government data shows the gender pay gap in Australia is 13.8%³³. The data shows the average wage for men in Australia is \$1,846.50 and \$1,591.20 for a woman. For one of the most advanced economies in the world, this is not good enough.

I note the Labor party has proposed to include gender pay equity as an objective of the Fair Work Act³⁴, I support this proposal however more needs to be done to create gender equity in Australia.

The first thing that government can do is to immediate support pay rises for workers in the 'care economy' – which mostly employee women. I support pay rises for nurses, midwives, aged care workers and for teachers.

It is also important we remove barriers that prevent female participation in our economy. Australia has dropped to 70th in the world when it comes to female economic participation³⁵. We must remove barriers to economic participation, including exploring changes to Australia's paid parental leave scheme to ensure it is truly gender neutral and provides incentives for parents to share parental leave and not be impacted in their workplace.

Childcare reform is also urgently needed. Data shows out of pocket expenses for childcare has increased 15% in the last three years, and in some instances childcare can cost \$180 per day³⁶. This is not economical for many, and so many families choose to keep one parent, normally a woman, out of the workforce as they simply cannot afford these costs. Universal affordable childcare would free up the equivalent of 850,000 new workers, create 255,000 full-time jobs in the early education and care sector, generate an additional \$48 billion in taxes each year and boost GDP by more than \$167 billion³⁷.

As the Member for Mackellar I will work to:

- Narrow the gender pay gap by backing the proposal to include gender pay equity as an objective of the Fair Work Act
- Support pay rises for workers in female dominated sectors such as those that work in nursing, midwifery, aged care and education
- Implement universal affordable childcare
- Support policies that lift the female participation rate in Australia
- Explore expanding Australia's paid parental leave scheme and ensure it is gender-neutral
- Ensure Australia's paid parental scheme includes superannuation payments

³³ <https://www.wgea.gov.au/publications/australias-gender-pay-gap-statistics>

³⁴ <https://theconversation.com/albanese-pledges-to-make-gender-pay-equity-a-fair-work-act-objective-182281>

³⁵ https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2021.pdf

³⁶ <https://www.afr.com/work-and-careers/workplace/make-affordable-childcare-part-of-the-education-system-20220502-p5ahwl>

³⁷ <https://www.theparenthood.org.au/make-australia-the-best>



5. Supporting small and medium sized businesses in Mackellar

While it may be a cliché, it's true to say that small businesses are the backbone of the community in Mackellar. There are over 35,000 on the Northern Beaches³⁸ and I have met many small business owners in Mackellar who say they have been doing it tough over the last two years and it will be my mission to help these businesses recover.

That is why I support the government's current Instant Asset Write-off³⁹ as well as the government's program of small business tax cuts.

However I think we can do more for our small businesses with many in Mackellar telling me they are struggling to find staff. In the short term we need to fast track skilled migration to help business while I believe we must also incentivise older Australians to work if they want to. Under the government's current policies, older Australians lose 50% of their pension payments if they earn over \$480 extra a fortnight⁴⁰. The result is that just 14.2% of people aged over 65 are in Australia's workforce, compared to nearly 25% in New Zealand⁴¹. If Australia removes barriers for older Australians to work, it could result in an additional 455,000 available workers⁴² available to help small businesses around the country. However in the medium to long term we need to invest in our universities, TAFEs and in vocational training to help train up the skilled workforce of the future.

By investing in cheap and reliable renewable energy we can also bring down energy costs for small businesses, while the government must also incentivise electric commercial vehicles such as utes so small businesses can also enjoy the cost savings from EVs.

As an independent I will also set up a function in my electorate office to help local small businesses access and leverage government programs and grants.

As the Member for Mackellar I will work to:

- Support measures that support small business grow such as the instant asset tax write off and lower taxes for small and medium sized businesses
- Grow jobs for tradies and suppliers in our suburbs by incentivising households and businesses to electrify, become energy efficient and renewably powered
- Ensure Australia invests in cheap and reliable renewable energy to drive down energy costs
- Tackle staffing shortages by fast-tracking skilled migration
- Grow investment in universities and vocational training to grow the workforce of the future
- Support changes to the aged pension to incentivise old Australians to work if they want to
- Support the uptake of technology such as e-invoicing in small businesses to increase productivity, reduce red-tape and increase cash flow
- Create a grants assistance team in my electoral office to help small businesses access and leverage government programs and grants

³⁸ <https://economy.id.com.au/northern-beaches/business-trends>

³⁹ <https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/30000-Instant-Asset-WriteOff>

⁴⁰ <https://nationalseniors.com.au/advocacy/our-campaigns/fairer-retirement-income-system/let-pensioners-work>

⁴¹ <https://nationalseniors.com.au/advocacy/our-campaigns/fairer-retirement-income-system/let-pensioners-work>

⁴² <https://www.afr.com/work-and-careers/workplace/push-for-pensioners-to-plug-australia-s-skills-gap-20211208-p59fuy>



6. Making electric vehicles accessible to everyday Australians

As an Australian who is privileged enough to own solar panels on my roof and an electric vehicle (EV), I know first-hand how much money an EV can save a family. There are some weeks where my car costs nothing to charge and run.

Owning an electric vehicle and having solar panels on our homes should not be a privilege or a luxury. Access to affordable EVs and cheap energy should be the right of all Australians. Across the world, people are enjoying the cost savings associated with EVs, however Australia is being left behind. In 2021, just 2% of new car sales in Australia were EVs, up from less than 1% in 2020⁴³.

While this growth is encouraging, we are well behind the rest of the world. International Energy Agency (IEA) data shows 6.6 million EVs were sold globally in 2021, representing 9% of the global market⁴⁴. In Norway, 72% of new cars sold in 2021 were EVs⁴⁵. While there is clearly demand for EVs in Australia, many Australians are left on waiting lists that are months long⁴⁶ as manufacturers choose to send cars to countries with supportive policies.

Transport represents 20% of Australia's emissions with 62% of that attributable to passenger cars⁴⁷. Reducing transport emissions is critical to decarbonising Australia and we have the technology available now to make that happen.

A national framework and policy to increase sales of EVs in Australia not only makes sense from an emissions reduction and cost of living perspective, but also from an energy independence perspective. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has led to massive spikes in oil prices and highlighted Australia's dependence on foreign fossil fuels. It's time to become energy independent.

Scott Morrison's Future Fuels Strategy is inadequate. It will lead to only a 3% increase in EV penetration compared to business as usual⁴⁸ - this isn't good enough. It also fails to recognise the opportunity EV batteries provide as distributed energy sources to support the grid and Australia's energy independence. For example, the government has announced \$260million⁴⁹ for increased diesel storage in comparison to only \$74million to support EV take up^{50,51}.

Australia is also lagging the world in fuel efficiency standards, and we are becoming a dumping ground for old, dirty and expensive car models in the future. The introduction of CO2 regulations in Europe led to a significant drop in average CO2 emissions intensity of new vehicles. (From 160g/km in 2006 to 132g/km in 2012.

(Please see next page for specific policy actions)

⁴³ <https://electricvehiclecouncil.com.au/ev-sales-boom-presents-chance-to-capture-serious-electric-benefits-if-government-acts-now/>

⁴⁴ <https://www.iea.org/commentaries/electric-cars-fend-off-supply-challenges-to-more-than-double-global-sales>

⁴⁵ <https://www.iea.org/commentaries/electric-cars-fend-off-supply-challenges-to-more-than-double-global-sales>

⁴⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/mar/27/sold-out-why-australia-doesnt-have-enough-electric-vehicles-to-go-around>

⁴⁷ https://www.industry.gov.au/sites/default/files/October%202021/document/australias_emissions_projections_2021_0.pdf

⁴⁸ <https://theconversation.com/as-the-world-surges-ahead-on-electric-vehicle-policy-the-morrison-governments-new-strategy-leaves-australia-idling-in-the-garage-169824>

⁴⁹ <https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/boosting-australias-diesel-storage-program>

⁵⁰ <https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/boosting-australias-diesel-storage-program>

⁵¹ <https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/future-fuels-and-vehicles-strategy>

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As the Member for Mackellar I will work to:

- Develop a National EV Strategy with inter-governmental support that includes incentives, infrastructure and the recommendations of AEMO to prepare the grid to use EVs as Distributed Energy Resources⁵²
- Fast-track government investment in Australia's public EV charging infrastructure
- Encourage the federal government to match cash incentives provided by the NSW, Queensland, Victorian and South Australian governments for new EVs
- Abolish stamp duty and fringe benefits tax (for fleets) and registration for EVs (aligning with current Australian best practice policies in the ACT and NSW) with the aim of ensuring EVs make up 50% of new car sales by 2030
- Introduce an emissions ceiling and fuel efficiency standards of 105g/km as recommended by the Climate Change Authority
- Advocate for the NSW Liberal Government's plan to deliver zero emissions transport and EV infrastructure
- Support the Northern Beaches Council in delivering its [EV Charging Infrastructure Plan](#)

⁵² <https://aemo.com.au/en/consultations/industry-forums-and-working-groups/list-of-industry-forums-and-working-groups/deip-ev-taskforce>