

**Submission
No 2**

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ELECTRIC AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCE VEHICLES IN NSW

Organisation: Cobar Shire Council

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Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important inquiry. As the Environmental Officer at Cobar Shire Council, I wish to highlight the unique challenges faced by remote and arid regions like ours in the transition to electric and alternative energy vehicles (EVs). Funding limitations, large travel distances, and the absence of local EV dealerships or servicing options make it difficult for our community to adopt this technology. Most residents rely on large 4WDs and older vehicles, which are better suited to rough terrain and can be repaired locally-a necessity in outback areas where self-sufficiency is critical. Current EV models often don't meet these practical needs, and the lack of charging infrastructure further adds to community hesitancy.

While we support the state's move toward cleaner transport, a phased and locally informed approach is essential. We recommend targeted funding for regional infrastructure, and long-term (12-24 month) EV community trials in places like Cobar to build familiarity and trust. It's also important to support upskilling for local mechanics and consider alternative fuels, such as hydrogen, for heavy and off-road vehicles. Education and outreach tailored to rural lifestyles will be key in ensuring a just and effective transition for communities like ours.