

Notice of Motion to the Sustainable Transport Committee from Sue Kedgley

Purpose:

To encourage the uptake of electric vehicles in the Wellington region, by helping to establish the necessary infrastructure of fast charging stations around the region.

Motion

1/That Greater Wellington Regional Council convene a working group consisting of representatives of Councils in the region; the Wellington Electricity company, Drive Electric, Charge Net and any other company or organisation with an interest in electric car infrastructure, to investigate how to put in place a network of fast charging stations for electric vehicles in the Wellington region, so that electric car drivers have the freedom and range to go anywhere they want in the Wellington region.

2/That Greater Wellington Regional Council demonstrates its leadership on electric vehicles by undertaking to replace existing vehicles with electric vehicles.

Background

As part of our Climate Change strategy and our commitment to reducing emissions in the Wellington region, I believe the Council should take a leadership role in encouraging the uptake of electric vehicles in the Wellington region, by ensuring that there is a network of fast charging stations around the region.

Fast charging stations can replenish a car within 15-30 minutes.

At present there is only one vehicle charging station in the Wellington region, at Z Energy petrol station located near the railway station, although three more are planned in Wellington city. The lack of fast charging stations in the region will obviously discourage the uptake of electric cars in our region.

Auckland Council has partnered with Vector to roll out a network of 35 rapid charging vehicle stations across the Auckland region. I believe we should seek to create a similar network of vehicle charging stations around the Wellington region, by working with Wellington Electricity, Z Energy or other interested companies, and other Councils in the region.

There are 860 electric vehicles in New Zealand, and 50 new electric cars are registered every month, and this is expected to accelerate in the coming years. In some countries overseas electric cars are one of the fastest growing cars on the market, and the Canterbury University Centre for Advanced Engineering estimates that up to 40% of new vehicle sales could be electric vehicles by 2030 rising to 80% by 2040.

Yet to date there are only 142 charging stations in New Zealand, and one in the Wellington region. The number of charging stations will need to increase

significantly if New Zealanders are to be encouraged to convert to electric cars. We can take a lead by helping to coordinate a network of vehicle charging stations in the Wellington region.