



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Preparing Tasmania's Electric Vehicle Future**

TasNetworks is shaping a more clean and affordable future for Tasmanian drivers.

As part of our long term Electric Vehicle strategic plan, the business is seeking 22 local participants with an electric vehicle (EV) for an important EV charging trial.

TasNetworks' CEO, Lance Balcombe, said the trial will collect data from 176 EV owners across Tasmania, Victoria and the ACT over 12 months.

Participants will receive a free 'fast charger' worth \$2,000 (charges three times faster than a standard device - cutting typical charge time from five hours to just 90 minutes), and other incentives.

The trial data will help:

- Understand EV's existing impact on the energy network, at different times and loads;
- Prepare energy networks for rapid EV uptake in the most efficient / cost-effective way;
- Forecast load-growth as home charging increases, and plan future investments accordingly;
- Understand EV owners' charging needs, and reduce network integration costs.

"Electric vehicles are the way forward for Tasmanians in coming years. But our island's electricity network *must* be ready and equipped for that significant transition," Mr Balcombe said.

"This trial will indicate what upgrades we need, and what challenges we face. It'll help us boost convenience, and keep costs as low as possible for EV drivers and general energy customers alike.

"TasNetworks purpose is to *power a bright future* for Tasmania. Making electric vehicles charging more affordable and convenient certainly fits that bill," he said.

More than 300 Tasmanians own an electric or plug-in hybrid car. They're already cheaper to operate and maintain than petrol/diesel ones, and could be cheaper to *buy* within five years, subject to market forces.

The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) is funding \$1.6 million of the \$3.4 million EV trial. TasNetworks is contributing about \$230,000, along with four other Australian distribution companies.

For more information about the trial and to submit an expression of interest, visit: [www.evgrid.com.au](http://www.evgrid.com.au)

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