

TRADE AND INVESTMENT GROWTH COMMITTEE – 31 MARCH HEARING
SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT FROM AEVA

[1] Ms Lawrence MHR commented that the AEVA submission was largely about "negating the benefits of other renewable energy sources". We draw the attention of the Committee to Page 4 of our submission, which discussed the opportunities to create steel and aluminium for domestic use and for export using renewable energy and hydrogen; and the opportunities to export electricity directly using underwater direct current cables.

[2] Ms Lawrence MHR sought information about Australia's EV uptake trajectory. Since the hearing on 31 March, the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries has released its quarterly vehicle sales report, which shows that 17,399 new battery EVs were purchased in Australia during the first quarter of 2023, representing 6.5% of total sales. There were a further 1,461 purchases of new plug-in hybrid EVs. It took Norway five years to go from EVs being 6% of new sales, to being 50% of new sales. We would expect a similar trajectory in Australia: while Norway has more far-reaching disincentive policies for ICE vehicles than Australia, the much greater number of EV models available since Norway was at 6% (in 2013) is likely to negate this difference.

[3] It may assist the Committee if we summarise the transport-related investment opportunities (to support the transition to a green energy superpower) as AEVA sees them. They are:

- Investment to foster value-added processing of battery minerals and complete battery manufacture
- Investment by Federal, State and Territory governments to accelerate the rollout of EV charging infrastructure, coupled with ongoing reliability guarantees
- Investment in Vehicle-to-Grid research and development to support the utilisation of the massive energy storage resource embodied in Australia's EV fleet
- Investment by State and Territory governments supporting the retrofitting of residential apartment buildings to support EV charging
- Investment by the Federal, State and Territory government in the upgrading and electrification of national and regional rail links
- Investment to accelerate the conversion of heavy trucks to electric drive, and to accelerate the roll-out of battery-swapping stations on national highways
- Investment in skills development required to support the energy transition (examples: auto mechanics, industrial chemists).

This statement was provided by Jude Burger and Warwick Cathro for
the Australian Electric Vehicle Association
2 May 2023



Handwritten signature of Warwick Cathro, with a small mark below it.