

# Electric Vehicles - Driving a Sustainable Future

## COUNCIL NAME

City of Parramatta  
Council

## WEB ADDRESS

[cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/](http://cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/)

## SIZE

83.8 square  
kilometres

## POPULATION

257,197

## Overview

The City of Parramatta is positioning itself at the forefront of the electric vehicle (EV) transition. This is being guided through EV planning controls, EV charging infrastructure guidelines, and an updated Council fleet management policy support the uptake of electric vehicles. Parramatta is also partnering with Western Sydney Region Organisation of Council (WSROC) creating a regional strategy to reduce barriers and encourage the transition to EVs across the region.

## Background

Transport alone makes up around one third, or approximately 5.8 million tonnes of total carbon emissions in Western Sydney, making it one of the most emission intensive sectors in the region. In the shift to net zero, targets to reduce transport emissions are a priority.

The City of Parramatta is ensuring they are well placed to accelerate the transition to electric vehicles. It is projected that by 2030, 52% of all private vehicle sales in NSW will be electric. Concurrent to the growth of EV market share, the City of Parramatta is experiencing a population boom, expecting to more than double in size from 230,000 in 2016 to 470,000 by 2041.

Council's use of planning levers, direct investment, advocacy and guidance will allow the local community, businesses, growth precincts and Council to be ready for EV uptake. Opportunities to embed future ready EV charging infrastructure into developments across the city are a priority as increasing numbers of high rise apartments are built.

Codifying EV technology through planning instruments such as Local Environment Plans (LEPs) and Development Control Plans (DCPs) is underway to ensure EV infrastructure is delivered in the development process.

## Implementation

The overall objective of the *Electric Vehicles: Driving a Sustainable Future project* was to develop exemplar policy, regulation and guidelines to expedite the transport sector's transition towards net zero.

The project's complementary objectives to provide economic certainty and drive investment include:

- Displaying leadership and providing certainty in policy, regulation and guidelines
- Taking holistic, ambitious and targeted action to give confidence to residents and businesses to transition to EVs by removing barriers to public and private charging
- Ensuring growth precincts are future-proofed and EV ready
- Supporting investment in EV infrastructure

Council has worked towards this outcome since 2016, culminating in the development of:

- Planning controls adopted in Telopea and pending adoption in Parramatta City Centre
- Guidelines for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure on Council Land
- Fleet Management Operational Policy updates
- EV charger locations included on Council Parking Finder

Council also participated in the development of the Western Sydney Electric Vehicle Roadmap coordinated by WSROC which identified the region's current transport emissions profile, government EV policies, the infrastructure landscape, barriers, and opportunities in the region.



Public place EV charging. Parramatta Station Car Park, Wentworth Street

## Outcomes

The City of Parramatta has been a leader in EV transition. Their drafting of EV planning controls in 2019, trialled through the Design Excellence planning process with developers input, and now being adopted by Council, demonstrates their leadership. EV planning requirements will be progressively rolled out to all fourteen growth precincts as they develop, and across the Parramatta LGA more broadly.

The success of this work resulted in the Telopea EV planning controls being adopted by Council in October 2021, and incorporated into the Parramatta Development Control Plan 2011 as a special precinct. The Parramatta City Centre EV planning controls were exhibited in 2021 and are expected to be adopted by Council in late 2022.

The 'Guidelines for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure on Council Land' were produced to facilitate a future network of EV charging infrastructure. These guidelines will ensure that providers are aware of Council's requirements and expectations when

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charging infrastructure is proposed within the Parramatta LGA, and encourage investment in this infrastructure.

Leadership has been demonstrated in encouraging the EV transition through Council's own Fleet Management Policy and the installation of charging infrastructure at Council's head office and operations centre. An updated 'Fleet Management Operational Policy, February 2022' commits council staff to consider total cost of owner (TCO) and to ensure the vehicle achieves a combined CO2 emissions test result of less than 110g/km.

The 'Our Parking Finder' resource assists people to easily locate EV chargers across the Parramatta local government area.

### Key Learnings

While Australia's transition to EVs is arguably in its early stages, it is projected that the EV sector will continue to grow as barriers to EV adoption are removed. Council's development of policy and planning controls for a zero emissions transport future can be used by other governments and councils as a model approach.

Council's collaboration through multidisciplinary working groups to maximise skills and experience in the process has been a model for both their locally focussed activities and their regional approach. These partnerships have created the collaboration needed to tackle big and complex issues such as this, and a model to be replicated for future environmental sustainability projects.

Council continues to use EV registration data supplied by NSW State Government and energy supply companies as a metric for success. While Council has demonstrated leadership and enthusiasm for the EV transition, there are ongoing opportunities to foster strong partnerships across government and into the private sector to coordinate future EV programs at scale. Through their leadership in this space, Council is well placed to leverage greater investment in EV infrastructure and technologies within their local government area.

### Contact

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This project was the 2022 winner of the Innovation in Planning, Policies and Decision Making Award at the LGNSW Excellence in the Environment Awards