Submittal to DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, LAND, WATER AND PLANNING

Climate change targets 2021-2030

Please make sensible plan to contain continuing emissions increases from the Transport Sector.

The fact that Australian tailpipe emission standard is so far out of date is a disgrace but Federal Government highest priority is to keep everything “cheap” even if it represents false economy. There’s little that State can do at this level, unless you can regulate the opposite of NSW policy which penalises servos if they don’t sell enough U94 petrol, otherwise known here as E10. Motoring experts advise that cars running on U95 can save $500, per car per year, better economy, better performance and reduced tailpipe emissions. Even now, cars currently imported often contain previous generation engines and/or, to handle low grade E91 petrol, need special program, at extra $$ cost. Instead of “future proof” we are only “backwards compatible” so that we’re a dumping ground for cars not acceptable in other countries. Why is it difficult to buy U95? Why so Much U91 and U98?

But EV’s(electric vehicles) are what this submittal is about.

It’s clear that cost of ownership is very much less for EV’s than ICE cars. Such low market share for EV’s here now makes Australia a pariah on the world stage, for EV’s as well as many other climate emergency elements. As with other aspects, like tailpipe emissions, we can play King Knut, imagining that the tide of climate change will not destroy the Reef, wash our beaches away etc etc, but surely we can get a meaningful result if we’re proactive? In the blink of an eye, its extremely expensive to avoid taking action.

Without sensible long term planning, EV’s are both serious problem and serious opportunity. If battery capacity is already towards 50kWh per car, its curious to compare that this is 3 to 5 times more than daily consumption by average household, a huge increase in demand on the electrical grid.

As in other countries, when EV’s get an up front rebate, equivalent to that for rooftop solar PV, recognising 15 years worth of emissions reductions, demand and market share will see drastic increase, both in number of EV’s and load on grid. Planned infrastructure needs to be in place to avoid catastrophe. If small EV charging systems, for home and work, are 4kW, when all connected, for say 10Million cars, load on the grid is 40GW, or 20 Loy Yangs. It may not be as sudden as “overnight” but track record with nursing coal fired power stations beyond senility, breakdowns of such big assets warrants big investment in replacements. Wind and solar, with storage, are the only options.

As well as EV’s being such a large load type of problem, they represent very useful opportunity. When grid connected, with smart hybrid inverter, its already possible for power from EV battery to be fed back into the grid. Even with present day inverter size of say 5kW, for 10Million cars, this amounts to 50GW of power, distributed around the grid, no big upgrade needed to poles and wires, equivalent to 25 Loy Yangs and reliable, not subject to unpredictable failure. At $1 per Watt(typical cost for solar, much more for coal) capital cost, for 25 LoyYaungs, at $2B each, amounts to $50Billion. How much would it be worth to offer modest up front rebate at purchase time, so the tax payer can provide this power, at their cost, while thoroughly enjoying new EV’s?

If no special infrastructure provision is made for EV’s ,then we can expect a GFC type “nobody could see it coming” complete failure of the grid fiasco. So here’s an opportunity for Victoria to
lead, while other States and Feds might fall in a heap of narrow minded, blind faith, obsession with cheapness.

So where can this fit into priority list for action? How about very high, especially considering that any blockage of Straits of Hormuz will, without notice, kill supply of oil to Australia. We have no more than 2 weeks of regular supply, which will no doubt be commandeered by Military and Law & Order. Obviously the sooner we can eliminate logistics, dependency and cost of importing “their energy” the sooner we’ll be able to sleep at night, peacefully. So how about an immediate priority?

The cost of doing too little too late doesn’t bear thinking about. Isn’t it embarrassing trying to talk to grand children about state of the world?

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