

Firms spark target on EVs

Million cars by 2027

RICHARD BLACKBURN

SOME of Australia's biggest companies and organisations have joined forces in a push to have one million electric cars on the road by 2027.

The companies, which include the Woolworths Group, Uber, Microsoft, IKEA, AGL Energy and Linfox, have flagged the goal in response to the federal government's release of a discussion paper on EVs in September.

They've called on the federal government to introduce a "strong" fuel-efficiency standard in line with Europe and the United States.

Australia is one of just a handful of developed countries without an enforceable CO2 emissions target, and EV advocates claim the lack of action has led Australia to become a dumping ground for thirsty, polluting vehicles. The target is an ambitious one – Australians have bought just 26,355 electric vehicles in the first nine months of this year, in a market of 811,130.

Last year, roughly 20,000 plug-in vehicles were sold, about 2 per cent of the total vehicle market.

To reach the one million mark in five years, EV sales would need to increase tenfold from next year.

The alliance includes businesses and industry groups from a range of sectors including transport, retail, agriculture, health, technology and insurance. It has also called for the government to roll out a co-ordinated charging net-

work "with a focus on the regions and suburbs" and look at ways to boost investment in local EV manufacturing.

The group says more needs to be done to introduce electric buses, trucks and other commercial vehicles. The statement makes no mention of the individual companies' commitments to buy EVs.

The chief executive of the Electric Vehicle Council, Behyad Jafari, said the government needed to deliver on its promise of a strong EV strategy. "After years of inaction from Canberra, Australian EV policy is now ready to accelerate and business wants to ensure we don't miss the moment," Mr Jafari said.

He said the federal government was "off to a strong start" with its EV strategy but needed to introduce "robust measures" to ensure Australia didn't fall behind the rest of the world in reducing vehicle emissions.

"We know Australians want the transition to electric vehicles to speed up. Our most recent data shows a 65 per cent leap in EV sales over the past year. But that still leaves Australia with a lot of opportunities to fill by catching up to the rest of the world," he said.

"The absence of a fuel-efficiency standard is largely to blame as manufacturer's overlook our nation in favour of others who have more ambitious plans. We can fix that swiftly and these hundred organisations from across Australian industry and society are making it clear they want that to happen."



Governor-General David Hurley with his wife, Linda, and Marianna Romaniv, 7. Picture: Emma Brasier

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE COMES FROM THE TOP

DOUGLAS SMITH

AUSTRALIA'S Governor-General David Hurley and his wife, Linda, met with Ukrainians who have fled their war-torn country for Adelaide on Sunday.

"As the Prime Minister has often said, 'this is an unjustified war'," Mr Hurley told members of the Ukrainian Catholic Church of Our Lady of Protection.

"This is a war against people going about doing their daily lives as we do here

in Australia and for a number of reasons, that is beyond unacceptable.

"I thought it would be very important to take the opportunity today while we're in Adelaide to express support for the Ukrainian community in Australia and here in this city, of course."

In the crowd was Liliia Romaniv and her seven-year-old daughter, Marianna, who escaped from Lviv in late February with Mrs Romaniv's husband, son and other daughter, eventually arriving

in Adelaide on July 31. "I very much feared for the safety of my children, that's why I left as soon as the war broke out," an interpreter translated for her.

"I left behind many of my extended family who are scattered throughout Ukraine.

"If it hadn't been for my young children, then my husband and I would likely have remained."

Ms Romaniv worked as an accountant back home but said not being able to speak

English meant she could not find work in Adelaide. "It's very hard for me to find work because we don't speak English," she said.

"I'm prepared to do any work at this stage, but my ambition in learning English is to eventually get back into my job in the field that I was trained in."

Ms Romaniv said she and her family would like to return to Ukraine one day but have decided to remain in Australia for as long as possible.

Fly in to swipe up grocery savings

PATRICK TADROS

SUPERMARKET shoppers will be able to save up to \$10 on some grocery items under a new cost-of-living initiative being launched by Coles and Flybuys this week.

The savings will be on everyday items including select mince meat, roast chooks, cheese, yoghurt, juices, coffee and cereal.

Customers will need to

swipe their Flybuys card to save an additional \$1, \$2, \$3, \$5 or \$10 off relevant products.

Bega cheese, Jalna yoghurt, Nescafe coffee and Kellogg's cereal are on the list, as is the popular RSPCA approved hot roast chicken, which will be \$1 off. Coles will introduce the exclusive Flybuys member prices from Wednesday and will roll out new savings throughout November.

A recent Coles survey of

more than 7500 respondents shows more than one-third of customers turn primarily to supermarket catalogues and loyalty program emails to manage their food budget.

Carmen Carnovale is always on the lookout for specials to feed and support her 13-month-old baby Matilda.

"If an item is not on special, I'll wait until the following week or look for an alternative," Ms Carnovale said.



Carmen Carnovale with daughter Matilda.

V8 race driven to help out

A DOLLAR from every Adelaide 500 ticket sold next month will be donated to charity, organisers say.

Variety SA has been revealed as the official charity partner for this year's V8 race, which is returning after a two-year hiatus.

It is also the race's main charity for next year.

Organisers have said that \$1 from every ticket sold in November will be donated.

Variety SA chief executive Mark McGill welcomed the "generous pledge".

He said it would benefit its work helping children.

V8 driver Todd Hazelwood, a Variety SA ambassador, said it would be a "huge boost".

Crowds of more than 250,000 are expected across the four days of the motorsport event, which is back for the first time since 2020.