**ITEM 8.5** **EV Charging Plan**

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## SUMMARY


- In June 2023 Council resolved to develop an Electric Vehicle Charging Strategic Plan to support our community with the uptake of EV's as we transition to zero-emission (Attachment 1).
- Since that time there has been several changes in the market, technology and Government legislation and policy prior to forming a position for Council.
- Following extensive work, including collaboration with surrounding Councils and SSROC, a Draft Electric Vehicle Charging Action Plan (The Plan) was placed on exhibition.
- The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the community feedback received on the Plan and outline next steps for implementing the actions.


## RECOMMENDATION That -

1. Council notes the feedback received during the community engagement period for the Electric Vehicle Charging Action Plan.

2. Council endorsed the Electric Vehicle Charging Action Plan (Attachment 1).

## ATTACHMENTS Click here for attachments

1. DRAFT Electrical Vehicle Charging Plan
2. Community Comments EV Action Plan

## INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING ALIGNMENT

- Council is committed to an evidence-based approach in responding to climate change and working towards net zero emissions by 2050 through innovation and efficient use of resources.

- Council's Operational Plan 2025/26 Service 7 Climate and Resilience, identifies the installation of additional EV Chargers for community use to support increased uptake of electric vehicles.

- The work is consistent with previous resolutions of Council and adopted policy positions, such as the Environmental Sustainability Policy, Resilient CBCity Strategic Plan, Bankstown Complete Streets, and Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement - Connective City 2036.

- The transformational nature of this project delivers on the aspirations of the Community Strategic Plan, CBCity 2036, and contributes to the goals set out in the City destinations of Clean and Green and Liveable and Distinctive.

## STRATEGIC IMPACT

- There is no financial impact as a result of this report.

- Actions will be separately assessed, funded and implemented through future Operational Plans.

- For example, funding for the "Electrifying the City" project for the purchase, installation and operation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure (EVCI) has been provided by the Western Sydney Infrastructure Program Grant (formerly WestInvest) and made available through the 2025/26 capital works program.

## DETAILED INFORMATION

**Purpose**

- The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the community feedback received on the Draft Electric Vehicle Charging Action Plan (the Plan) and outline next steps.

**Background**

- The provision of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) on public land has been a topic of debate for several years.

- The NSW State Government has actively promoted kerbside EVCI as a primary solution for achieving its targets. To support this initiative, it has offered co-funding grants to councils and commercial charge point operators (CPOs), to implement various kerbside charging solutions including advertising. Additionally, the NSW Government has amended the State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021, to allow supply authorities and public authorities to install EVCI without requiring Council consent.

- While Council recognises the importance of EVCI as the transition to net zero continues, there are concerns over its potential impact and privatisation of the public domain.

**The Draft Electric Vehicle Charging Action Plan.**

- The development of the Plan has involved extensive research, reviewing other council approaches, internal consultation and evaluation of Council's role in permitting EVCI on public land, such as on-street kerbside locations.

- To establish a clear path forward, the Draft Electric Vehicle Charging Action Plan has examined the roles of commercial CPOs and third parties, the NSW Government and Council. It considers our city's demographics, vehicle registrations, and the locations of current and planned EVCI across CBCity. In addition, the Plan reviews relevant legislation, planning, and available EVCI options for residents that lack easy access to off-street home charging.

- The Plan contends that state and federal governments, energy providers, vehicle manufacturers and large commercial operators (e.g. clubs and shopping centres) have the primary responsibility for rolling out EV charging infrastructure.

- However, it also acknowledges Council's dual role in supporting the transition to low emission vehicles while ensuring accessibility and maintaining the public domain's amenity.

- Prioritising *off-street EV charging* (rather than on street EVCI) is recommended for the following reasons:
  - Protection of the limited (on-street) public domain
  - Fewer than 1% of Canterbury-Bankstown private and business vehicles are EVs
  - Planned installation of additional off-street EVCI in late 2025 at 15 council facilities and car parks through the "*Electrifying the City Grant",* and
  - The continued roll-out of off-street commercial EVCI.

- The Plan identifies key areas of action in the short to medium term that are within the Council's control, aiming to achieve a balanced approach to coordinating EVCI across the City.

- In the short-term Council will increase the number of chargers at Council facilities and carparks. It will continue to encourage CPOs to provide off-street EVCI in suitable locations such as service stations, private car parks and shopping or entertainment centres.

- Additionally Council places a high priority on community education and the implementation of development control plans that facilitates EV charging in all new developments across the City.

**Councillor Briefing**
On 12 August a Briefing was held which provided Councillors the opportunity to discuss and contribute to the Plan.

**Public Exhibition**
- The Draft Electric Vehicle Action Plan was publicly exhibited from 6 June – 4 July 2025 to gather community and stakeholder feedback. Engagement was conducted via the *Have Your Say* website, social media, eNews, and direct emails. Key outcomes of the consultation were:
  - **546** page visits, **416** unique visitors
  - **59** EV survey responses
  - **35** written comments
  - **3** email submissions from EV industry stakeholders

- Of the 35 written submissions received:
  - 74% supported the Plan
  - 17% opposed it; 9% were neutral

- From the survey (59 responses):
  - 68% were EV owners; most charge at home
  - 90% cited limited charger availability as a key issue
  - 90% supported off-street EV charging; 70% supported on-street in suitable locations
  - 52% believed Council should play a role in EV infrastructure to support net zero goals

- Below is a summary of the key themes from the submissions and a response

| Topic | Community Feedback | Council Response |
|---|---|---|
| **Council's Role** | Mixed views – some support, others prefer market-led approach | Council will deliver infrastructure using grants only, with cost-recovery pricing. Role may scale back as industry matures. |
| **Charging Locations** | Strong support for off-street (car parks), some support for on-street near apartments | Off-street will be prioritised due to lower impact on public space |

| Topic | Community Feedback | Council Response |
|---|---|---|
| **Charging Speeds** | Need for both Level 2 and rapid chargers | Council will support the rollout of various level chargers. |
| **Other Suggestions** | Fines for overstaying, non-EVs in EV bays, support for strata buildings | Council will publish EV charging information and guidelines online |

- There were 3 Industry Submissions with industry stakeholders praising Council's leadership and urged a stronger role in supporting EV uptake. Recommendations included:
  - Prioritising kerbside charging
  - Strategic deployment in public spaces
  - Partnerships with commercial operators to ensure equity and competition.

- Attachment 2 is the detailed EV Charging Action Plan Community Comments.

- There were no amendments made to the Plan following the exhibition period.

**Next Steps:**

- Subject to Council adopting the Plan the following next steps are proposed:
  - Publish consultation summary on *Have Your Say.*
  - Share EV charging information via Council website.
  - Progress "Electrifying the City" rollout at 15 off-street locations.
  - Monitor EV adoption and charger usage.