

Clean car standard and a clean car discount

A submission

I have already completed the on-line questionnaire but felt I needed to further discuss some points.

Feebate scheme

While I appreciate what this proposal is trying to achieve, and I acknowledge that this is a very complex matter, I don't believe it goes far enough, quickly enough.

- There should not be any incentives for fossil fuelled vehicles (maybe hybrids) – while I understand the idea, I just don't agree with promotion of vehicles that still produce CO2 emissions – it seems counter intuitive to me.
- There should be greater incentives to encourage a more rapid uptake of battery electric vehicles – new and used.
- The proposed \$8,000 discount for the purchase of a new EV should not be delayed. It will potentially cause a stall in the purchase of new EVs. And maybe the discount should be increased to \$10,000? As these cars are increasingly expensive. So expensive, one wonders why/how? Seems like the manufacturers are using the situation to make some money at the expense of the consumer. Not a good situation.
- The cap of \$80,000 might have to be lifted as there are a number of EVs that are knocking on the door of that value – and if this cap is meant to be an a statement that rich people don't need a discount, well I think there are more 'regular' people around that want to get an EV than there are 'rich' people. So that needs to be reviewed.
- I see manipulation of the pricing of ICE and EV vehicles by the manufacturers and dealers. Is it possible for government intervention in this area? The price of new ICE vehicles continue to drop and the price of EVs mysteriously seem to be increasing although the cost of manufacture is dropping. I'm sure the argument of market forces will be rolled out but we cannot allow market manipulation to interfere with attempts to reduce CO2 emissions. We simply don't have enough time anymore to allow anything that will slow down that process.

Road user charge (RUC)

Obviously all road users should pay their share for the upkeep of the roads. However, at the moment, given the small size of the national EV fleet, the current exemption of RUC for EVs should be extended beyond the current planned expiry arrangement. Enhanced EV uptake is urgently needed and this is one incentive that would contribute toward that goal.

Further, I would suggest a complete overhaul of how the RUC is structured and collected. Not that I have studied this matter in detail, but my sense is that the 'light vehicle' fleet is paying too much when compared to what the heavy road transport trucking division pay. And the damage they are doing to the roads. Apart from the proposed penalties in this initiative, I wonder if RUC should be restructured to include the traditional RUC charges but also include a carbon tax for those 'dirty' vehicles. Especially diesel utes, vans and trucks.

Proposed CO2 reduction levels

Again, while acknowledging that this is a complex issue, I don't think the proposed measures go far enough and are too timid. Echoing some of my earlier comments – our world has just about run out of time – and I am aware that NZ is just a small country – although as your report points out – we have one of the dirtiest vehicle fleets in the world, we should act as fast as we possibly can and aim for the same Japan or European CO2 emission levels that they are heading for by 2020/21.

Can the NZ Govt. legislate so that only vehicles meeting the current Japan or European emission level be imported? Full stop?

Summary

I'm sure the anti EV brigade will come out in force to attack this initiative, so in anticipation, I encourage the Government to proceed with pace to ensure its introduction. This issue must not be allowed to degenerate into an argument about people losing the right to drive whatever car they want to.

It must be promoted front and centre about trying to help save the planet. Because that's where we are at. The promotion of electric vehicles is potentially one of the easier ways to achieve some real change.

Now is the time to show courage and make a stand for the planet and future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

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