

## **ELECTRIC VEHICLE STRATEGY — CHARGE UP ROUND 2**

*Statement by Minister for Energy*

**MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Energy)** [12.11 pm]: I am pleased to update the house on one element of the Cook government's work to support the uptake of electric vehicles. Earlier this month I launched round 2 of the Charge Up workplace grants program at the EV Expo, where the WA government had a very strong presence. Round 2 has \$12.5 million available to help not-for-profits, small and medium businesses, and local government authorities to install EV chargers. In this round, fast DC chargers up to 350 kilowatts are available, in addition to AC chargers. The grants will meet about half the costs of buying and installing charging stations, as well as half the cost of smart charging software for a period of two years. In addition, the grants will cover half the cost of electricity network upgrades required to cater for larger chargers. Higher funding caps are in place for areas outside of Perth, in recognition of higher costs in regional and remote Western Australia. The Charge Up grants are designed to encourage daytime and off-peak EV charging. The grants help by making charging stations available where people typically might spend time during the day, such as tourist attractions and hospitality businesses. These charging stations enable EV owners to utilise abundant solar energy during sunny hours, which assists in stabilising our electricity grid.

Round 1 of the Charge Up grants program was very successful. Nearly \$2.4 million of grant funding was approved to install 403 chargers in 221 locations throughout Western Australia. Applications are open now and will close in early May 2024. Applications are assessed on a rolling basis and may close early if funding is exhausted. Small and medium businesses, not-for-profits and local governments should log on to the Energy Policy WA website to find out how the Charge Up grants could benefit them. The Charge Up workplace EV charging grants program is part of the Cook government's \$60 million clean energy car fund and a feature of the state electric vehicle strategy. By working together, industry and government can position our state to be driven by cleaner energy, towards net zero by 2050.