

Member Panel report, May 2020: **electric vehicles**



In May 2020, we asked our members a range of questions about electric vehicles (EVs) to understand their attitudes towards them and what, if anything, the government should be doing to promote them. Over 600 members responded: here's a summary of the findings.

Members generally have a good understanding of the costs and pollution associated with EVs.

70% of members estimated that a new EV costs between 25% and 99% more than its petrol or diesel equivalent. 80% of members also recognised that EVs cause some pollution, but less than a petrol vehicle.

Member expectations of the range per charge is below that of the most popular new EV models being sold in Australia.

Only 16% of members estimated that a battery electric vehicle can travel further than 400km on a single charge, despite all current Tesla models and the Hyundai Kona performing at this level.

Members are fairly evenly split between those who would consider an EV for their next car purchase and those who would not.

41% would consider buying an electric vehicle as their next car purchase. Regional members are relatively unlikely to consider buying an EV due to their pattern of usage and the lack of charging infrastructure. 54% of members are prepared to pay more for an EV than an equivalent petrol vehicle, although only 17% would pay more than \$10k extra.

We'd like to know your thoughts on key issues regarding motoring, mobility, and road safety. If you haven't already signed up for RAA's Member Panel, you can do so [here](#).

Factors currently discouraging EV purchases include purchase cost, accessibility and convenience of recharging, driving range and range of models.

On the flip side, environmental footprint, performance and running/maintenance costs all currently encourage EV purchases.

50% of members declared environmental factors as the primary benefit for Australia transitioning to EVs.

National fuel security (19%) and health (14%) were the second and third most selected primary benefits.

Government actions most likely to encourage members to buy an EV include the provision of public charging infrastructure, subsidies and discounts on fees.

Provision of information and vehicle and parking lane privileges would have less impact on purchasing intention.

COVID-19 has highlighted Australia's fuel security vulnerabilities, the benefits of reduced transport pollution and the government's role in supporting jobs and businesses. 19% of members now think EVs should be a higher government priority.

However, 9% of members felt that EVs are less of a priority in the context of the global pandemic, and that government focus and budgets should be directed elsewhere.