

# Minutes

Meeting of the AEVA Tas Branch  
Glenorchy Showgrounds, 21/07/2021 19:41

## Attendance

### AEVA Members

Christopher Walkden (Secretary), Ray Johnston, Charles Gregory (Vice Chair), Penny Cocker (Chair), Clive Attwater (Treasurer), Penny Wadsley, Michael Wadsley, Ron Andersen, Rosemary Grant, Bruce Hocking, John Fast, John Casimaty, Chris Gillies, Doro Forck, Richard Upton, Midj Jones, Shayn Harkness, Julie Hargreaves, John Bluhdorn

### Guests (please excuse errors, some are difficult to identify due to Zoom alias or handwriting!)

Colin Atkins, Cathy Craig, David Craig, Steven Honson, John Lennox, Daniel Bleakley, Krys Smietanski, Mike Emery

### Apologies

Margaret Kinsela, Helen Hutchinson

## Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting

Moved by John Fast, seconded by Ray Johnston that the minutes of the previous meeting (available [here](#)) be accepted as an accurate record; carried.

## Correspondence in/out

No notable correspondence

## General Business

### Treasurer's Report

The [annual financial statements](#) were received in the AGM prior to this meeting.

### News

- TasNetworks is looking for feedback about what it terms "Distributed Energy Resources". It has made a survey which anyone can complete, it will ask you for your opinions about solar, home battery storage and electric vehicles. Follow [this link](#) for more information and to complete the survey.
- TasNetworks is also interested in community batteries. Penny Cocker said that one larger battery has some advantages over multiple smaller batteries, including cost. TasNetworks is looking for solutions to problems such as local overload from solar, frequency control and grid stability. They are working to develop customer incentives to cope with changes that it sees coming.
- The [EV Grid Project](#) is a trial of smart EV charging being conducted in Tas, Vic and ACT. Participants in the trial will receive a free smart charger, and the electricity distributors in the areas will be able to perform tests using the chargers. The idea is for the distributors to gain experience on how this style of network control might work. The chargers will allow the network to control how much power is delivered to a vehicle. This is not a bi-directional charging trial. The trial will consist of a number of 'events', where participants will know in advance what is going to happen, and so they can choose to opt out of an event if they need to.

The free chargers are now being installed. Christopher Walkden's was installed yesterday by Degree C. In his case, since his garage circuit breaker is 32 A (7 kW) total, his charger has been limited by software to 6 kW.

- The state government announced that their election promise to waive the stamp duty component from the purchase of new and second hand EVs would come into effect from July 1<sup>st</sup>. The Tesla design page is already showing the discount. The estimate is that this will save an average of about \$2000 per vehicle. Service Tasmania is not quite geared up yet to apply the discount, but are working towards it and will apply it to all cars sold since July 1.

## Tasmanian Chargers

- The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) is providing \$16.5m to fund fast charging in metropolitan areas, including greater Hobart (*the first round of the [Future Fuels Fund](#)*). The website says that applicants should be notified of their success or otherwise in May. Clive Attwater (from EHT, one of the applicants) advised that the federal minister has still not announced the outcome of the grant.
- The state government has also committed to funding chargers in regional sites (as an election promise), although no further information is available yet.
- Evie opened a dual 350 kW charging station at Westbury, in the car park of the IGA supermarket. The design is interesting in that cars can drive through both bays, and this site could therefore cope with an EV with a trailer.
- The first Tasmanian Tesla supercharger site, with the first Australian 'version 3' superchargers, was opened on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Devonport ferry terminal. Only Tesla cars can charge at superchargers, although there are speculations that this may change in the future.
- A question was asked about what steps are being taken towards a single, easy way to pay for charging. Clive made the following comments:
  - When he approached various charging network providers saying that a standard payment system should be set up, their opinion was that this should come after the initial roll-out stages. This didn't make much sense to Clive.
  - The EHT chargers are 'just about' the only sites in the country that take credit card. The original EHT credit card readers were very difficult to use, but they have recently been upgraded to make them much easier.
  - About 5% of EHT charging events are paid for using credit card.
  - Tesla has a very good system for payments, where a supercharger can identify the car electronically and bill the customer automatically without any cards, apps etc.
- A question was asked about how will the charging infrastructure keep up with demand in Tasmania. Is someone looking at the best places to install chargers, how much power is available? Is induction a good option? Clive replied:
  - The EHT business model includes doing exactly this. EHT has performed extensive consultation all over the state, and is monitoring charging habits, peak usage statistics etc. of their existing chargers. EHT recognises the commercial value of this information and so does not make it public, but will act on it.
  - Indications are that the current electricity generation capacity within Tasmania would supply the vast majority of the power required to completely electrify Tasmania's transport system.
  - Vehicle to Grid is coming, which has the potential to add flexibility to the electricity supply system.
  - Induction may be appropriate for taxis, buses etc., where usage suits many short charges of a vehicle that is constantly used. Induction gives a 'quick getaway' which is good for these uses.

## Launceston Conversions Group

*This is a Launceston-based group of AEVA members and non-members interested in converting vehicles to electric. Please contact the secretary if you'd like to be involved, you'll be added to the email list.*

The Launceston College Suzuki Mighty Boy, after finally moving under its own steam, has now suffered a 'little accident'. During testing the motor uncontrollably went to full speed, reason unknown. The motor controller exploded with a flash and a loud bang. :( Luckily the car was not in gear at the time, and it appears that the damage was only to the controller.

A new controller costs about \$1500. Repair of the old one is being considered, although it appears that the cost of components will be significant.

## Hobart Conversions Group

*This is a Hobart-based group of AEVA members and non-members interested in converting vehicles to electric. Please contact the secretary if you'd like to be involved, you'll be added to the email list.*

No report this meeting.

## EV Owners' Kit

Ray passed around a 'Quick Reference Guide' pamphlet produced by Mitsubishi which has good information for PHEV beginners. He suggested that this would be a good addition to a kit aimed at purchasers of the Outlander PHEV.

## National AEVA

- An option has been added to the AEVA membership where you can now tick a box to turn on automatic payments. This will automatically pay your membership from your credit card when it is due (*it sends you emails to let you know it is doing it!*). It is hoped that this will increase the membership renewal rate. We don't know exactly what it will do when a credit card expires, so we're doing an experiment to see.
- The Global EV Alliance has been formed. This is an alliance of many EV groups worldwide, including the AEVA. Follow [this link](#) for more information and an introductory video.

## Stickers? Number plate tags?

No stickers have been suggested to Christopher (see the previous minutes for details).

Penny Cocker found that the triangle EV number plate labels are available from the TACC for \$5.50. It was noted that the labels must be metal, and are typically riveted to the front and rear number plates. A question was asked why not vinyl stickers? A comment came back that with a vinyl sticker, if someone changes their registration (e.g. moves interstate), the sticker can't be transferred and is often forgotten about. A metal label can be moved to the new licence plates.

Although these labels have only been mandated since January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019, Penny encouraged all EV owners to purchase them if they don't already have them. In an incident these labels give first responders valuable information about the situation they are entering.

*The TACC are not keen on selling these to individuals, so we'll arrange for a group buy over the coming weeks.*

## Reports on Events

- July 14<sup>th</sup> [AEVA Webinar](#) with TrueGreen Mobility  
This was well worth attending, follow the link for a recording.

## Planning for Upcoming Events

- October 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> – [Launceston Show](#)  
Launceston Show is this year to be held at Quercus Park near Carrick (where Agfest is held). As part of the show we will hold a version of our Elektrikhana test drive days on the 7<sup>th</sup>, the local public holiday Thursday.  
If you know of a business or organisation that would like to display in this space please let us know. The Launceston Show has quite reasonable rates for trade space.  
We'd also appreciate any offers of help with organisation, setup, marshalling on the day etc.
- October 9<sup>th</sup> – [Sustainable Living Festival](#) in Launceston  
Just two days after Elektrikhana, this festival has asked us if we'd like to put on a display. It is at Windsor Park in Riverside. It might be convenient to move vehicles from Quercus to Riverside.  
Christopher had a meeting with the event coordinator and it was decided that AEVA would provide a static display of vehicles in an outdoor location near the food vendors and other stalls. Keep this in mind if you'd like to attend to display your vehicle and/or chat with patrons.

## Meeting Dates

Christopher Walkden noted that with only one Zoom licence, and most branches now using Zoom for their meetings, it is important that we don't clash meeting dates with other branches. Our meetings are currently scheduled every 8<sup>th</sup> week, which is different to the other branches, which are typically scheduled monthly, for example the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. This means that our meetings sometimes clash with other branch meetings. For instance the SA, QLD and Tas branches are all meeting today at the same time. Is it time for us to change to a more compatible meeting schedule? Christopher to discuss with Penny Cocker.

## Presentations

Guest speaker Daniel Bleakley from the "[Coal Miners Driving Teslas](#)" YouTube channel spoke about his mission to get as many people from around the country to experience driving an EV - coal miners, politicians, comedians and more!

For the presentation please see the recording of the meeting, available on the AEVA Youtube channel [here](#).

Meeting closed 21:06

**Next meeting: 19:00 September 22<sup>nd</sup>** at the Hobart Showgrounds. See our [website](#) for a full list of meeting dates and locations.

*Text written in italics was added by the Secretary while writing the minutes, and was not part of the meeting on the day.*

## General information:

For more information on any of the topics covered, or for contact information of the people mentioned, contact the secretary Christopher Walkden at: [secretary@tas.aeva.asn.au](mailto:secretary@tas.aeva.asn.au)

Want to join the AEVA or join our mailing list? Need info on EVs? See our [website](#).

## Members' discounts:

- 20% off **Tesla Limousines & Tours** <https://teslatours.limo/> (Statewide)
- Discounted EV chargers from **Gelco**: <http://www.gelcoservices.com.au/>
- Fonzarelli Electric Scooters are offering a 5% discount and a free charger pack to AEVA members: <http://www.fonzarelli.co/>

## Links provided by members (since last meeting)

List of Australian EVs by EV Brief podcast:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VHlk31NSa0ldQAYqn\\_2BF5jktYO3ExgayRgRM1O1mUY/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VHlk31NSa0ldQAYqn_2BF5jktYO3ExgayRgRM1O1mUY/edit#gid=0)

Survey by Tas Networks on Distributed Energy Resources:

<https://talkwith.tasnetworks.com.au/der-survey>