



Kona electric. Image: Hyundai

INTRODUCTION

The Hyundai Kona is available as a petrol or full electric versions in Australia*.

The Kona electric is described as a small 'crossover' SUV. In electric guise it is front-wheel drive only, unlike the petrol version which has an AWD option.

The Kona electric received many motoring awards in 2018 for its innovative, highly efficient electric drive system and class-leading driving range. Offered overseas with two battery options (39kWh & 69kWh), in Australia it is only offered as the 69kWh version.

Reviewers have been effusive in their praise for the Kona electric and have called it a 'game changer' for the acceptance of EVs by the general public as a competitively priced, well-appointed true alternative to internal combustion engine vehicles.

Worldwide sales of the Kona electric began in late 2018 but it has been a staggered release as deliveries have been hampered by demand far exceeding supply. Australian deliveries began in late March 2019.

For the 2020 model year, the 200mm touchscreen was widened to 250mm.

Note:

* Unlike the Ioniq range, there is no plug-in hybrid version and a hybrid version has only recently been released overseas. No announcement has yet been made as to whether the Kona hybrid will be brought to Australia.

DRIVING RANGE

The Kona Electric has a quoted range of 449 km under the new European WLTP test cycle# and 557 using the current Australian mandated test cycle. Real world driving range however is closer to 420 km.

For instance the Kona would, at its limit, make a round-trip from the Melbourne CBD to Ararat and back – provided neither the heating or air conditioning were used. For this sort of trip, a 30 min to 1hr top-up AC charge over lunch in Ararat, or a 5 – 10 min DC fast charge (none yet available on this route) would be recommended.

Note:

WLTP range figures are not yet mandated in Australia.

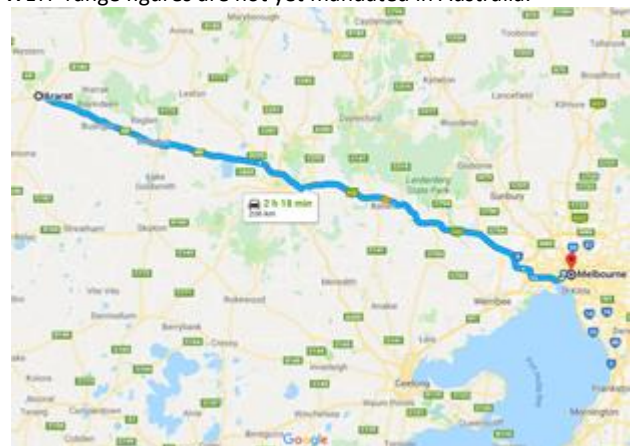


Image: Google maps

CHARGING SPEEDS/REQUIREMENTS

Charging port

The Kona Electric is fitted with a CCS2 socket allowing it to charge via AC as well as via CCS2 DC fast-chargers.



CCS2 charging plug and socket

Note: the Kona electric can be charged at any AC EVSE, however an adaptor will be needed to use EVSEs fitted with Type 1 plugs.

CHARGING SPEEDS/REQUIREMENTS (CONTINUED)

AC charging:

Although fitted with the 3 phase type 2 AC socket as part of the CCS2 system, the Kona electric charges using single phase AC only at a maximum of 7.2kW (32A).

Charging speeds vary on the capacity of the EVSE (Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment) it is connected to and the chosen battery size. Charging times are shown in table 1 below.

EVSE type:					
10 A socket	16 A 1 phase (3.6 kW)	32 A 1 phase (7.2 kW)	16 A 3 phase (11 kW)	DC Fast charge (50kW)	DC Fast charge (100kW)
28h	19h	9h 35m	N/A	75m (to 80%)	54m (to 80%)

Table 1: Charging times for the Kona electric

DC fast charging

The Kona electric uses the CCS2 fast-charge connector. This connector is becoming the majority type of DC fast-charge connector in both Australia and overseas.

HOME CHARGING CONSIDERATIONS

General

To get the shortest home charging time for a Kona electric, a 7.2kW AC EVSE would be needed.

However, depending on your existing power supply and/or charging needs, it may only be practicable to fit a lower rated EVSE. (See notes below). Lower capacity EVSEs will increase charging times, as shown in table 1 above.

The Kona comes with an 'in-cable control box' (ICCB) for plugging into a power point. Charging with the ICCB will take approx. 28hrs to reach full-charge from empty.

Important notes for any home EVSE installation:

1. High charging rates are generally not needed for overnight charging.
2. Homes do not normally have three phase AC connected;
3. Switchboard and/or electrical supply upgrades may be needed if your home is more than 20 years old. (See fact-sheet on 'Making your home EV ready', or read articles in:
(a) EV News, (AEVA newsletter) issue 231, or
(b) ReNew, (ATA magazine) edition 143.

SPECIFICATIONS

Boot volumes in litres (1 litre = 10 x 10 x 10 cm)

- Boot: 332 L
- Rear seat folded, loading space to roof: 1,114 L

Dimensions:

- Overall length: 4,180 mm
- Overall width (mirrors folded/mirrors out): 1,800/2,070 mm
- Overall height: 1,570 mm

Battery:

- 64kWh

Energy consumption:

- 131 Wh/km (European WLTP test cycle)

Kerb weight:

- 1,685 kg

WHERE TO BUY

The Hyundai electric vehicle range is available only from 'Blue Drive' accredited Hyundai dealers. See Hyundai Australia website to find the one closest to you. (<https://www.hyundai.com.au/dealer>)

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