



## Media release

For immediate release

### Reduce heavy haulage emissions through electrification and rail - AEVA.

Efforts to reduce the emissions associated with heavy haulage could be accelerated through greater use of rail and electric trucks for delivery and pickup. The Australian Electric Vehicle Association (AEVA) says any incoming government must invest heavily in rail for long haul freight and passenger transport, with a view to electrifying key interstate routes by 2050. The Association's president, Dr Chris Jones, says shifting more freight to intermodal rail will be key to reducing emissions in the freight logistics sector.

"It's not widely acknowledged that even when using diesel locomotives, moving freight by rail produces around one quarter of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per tonne-kilometre of goods moved, and emissions are halved again if hauled by electric locomotives", says Jones. The AEVA argues that for shorter, hub-and-spoke delivery routes, battery electric trucks are eminently capable, available and perfectly suited to the task. "Most truck movements are in cities, rarely exceeding 300 kilometres a day. This is well within the capability of a modern electric delivery truck", says Jones.

AEVA has made two key recommendations for an incoming government this election to accelerate electric heavy haulage - a massive and ongoing upgrade of Australia's interstate rail lines, including more direct alignments and strategically located intermodal facilities; and financial support for logistics companies willing to acquire electric heavy goods vehicles and related chargers.

Cost remains a key barrier to businesses embracing electric trucks. Despite significantly lower running costs, electric trucks currently cost twice as much as a diesel equivalent, while the rapid charging infrastructure needed at depots and on major highways is often limited by power constraints. AEVA believes the federal government has a key role in supporting the shift to electric heavy haulage. "Just as essential refueling infrastructure was publicly financed in the early days, multi-megawatt charging will need support today" says Jones.

**Ends**

### About AEVA

The Australian Electric Vehicle Association (AEVA) LTD is a volunteer-run, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the cause of switching Australia's transport networks to electric drive as quickly as possible. Formed after the oil price shocks of 1973, the AEVA is the longest continuously running EV society in the world.

We represent all EV users and enthusiasts; current and prospective.

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