A Guide for Making Your Town EV Friendly





Final April 2025



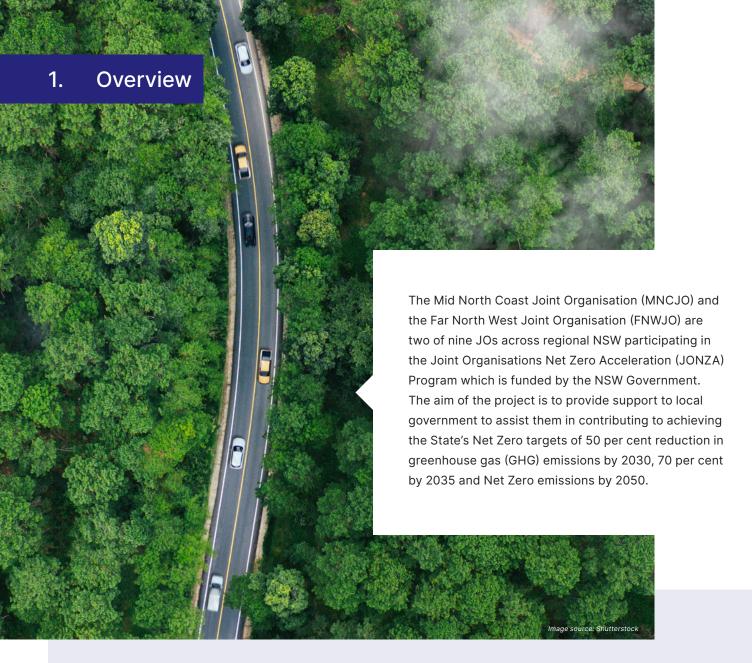




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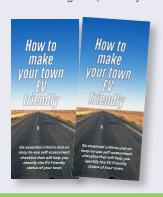


This project also builds capacity within the Council teams to increase their awareness of energy and emissions reduction pathways and to progress the uptake of Electric Vehicles (EV) and the installation of EV charging infrastructure (EVCI) across regional NSW through the delivery of priority projects.

The MNCJO and the FNWJO have worked together to deliver two of the projects identified under the JONZA -EV funding *Priority 2 - Resource to Progress EV vehicles and infrastructure in their regions*, namely:



Develop framework for what constitutes an EV friendly town; and



Develop promotional material around their region being EV friendly

This guide was designed to assist local government organisations to prepare for the increased number of EVs within their regions or travelling to their regions. The Electric Vehicle Friendly Destination Checklist included in Attachment 1 was designed as a self-assessment checklist for Councils to identify the EV friendly status of their towns.

1.1 Background

The transport sector is the third largest emitter of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Australia accounting for 21% of total emissions in 2023 (DCCEEW, 2023). The electrification of vehicles is a key factor in the strategy to reduce road transport emissions and part of the Australian and NSW Governments' strategies to achieve Net Zero by 2050. The sale of electric vehicles (EVs) in Australia has grown from less than 1% of new car sales in 2020 to 8.4% during 2023 and 9.5% during 2024 (NRMA, 2024 and Electric Vehicle Council, 2025) – see **Figure 1**. The Electric Vehicle Council (EVC) indicated that if the trend in new EV sales continues then it is expected that total new EV sales will reach at least 15-19% in 2026 (Electric Vehicle Council, 2025).

NEW CAR SALES 2020 1%

2023 **8.4%**

2024 **9.5%**

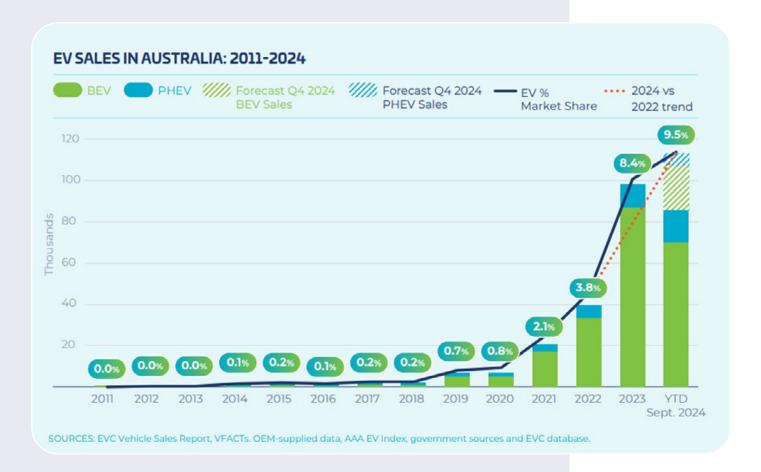


Figure 1 EV Sales in Australia 2011-2024 (Electric Vehicle Council 2025)



NRMA Insurance has undertaken a review of the current EV market and has reported on insights into Australian attitudes towards EVs, along with the key opportunities and barriers in the EV sector. The report identified that "driving range (54%) and charging times (53%) are among the most common reasons Australians are hesitant to switch to EVs" (NRMA, 2024).

One of the recommendations of the report is to provide clearer information about the locations of charging stations and the associated costs of charging to simplify the process for travellers or potential travellers and alleviate range anxiety.



This EV Friendly Town Framework aims to assist local communities and businesses in outlining what constitutes an EV friendly town and how they can provide the appropriate level of information to EV travellers to ensure that they continue to visit their region, by addressing their range anxiety and ensuring their visitor experience is enhanced.

The NSW Electric Vehicle Strategy (2021) identified that EVs are expected to account for 52% of new car sales by 2030-31, with the aim for most new car sales being EVs by 2035. The Electric Vehicle Council estimated that the distribution of sales of new EVs across Australia was that approximately 43% of new EVs were sold in Outer Metropolitan Areas, 39% were in Inner Metropolitan Areas and the remaining 18% were in regional and rural areas (Electric Vehicle Council, 2024).

As at 24/02/2025 there were 75,505 passenger battery electric vehicles (BEV) registered in NSW from a total of 4,662,849 registered passenger vehicles in NSW (Transport NSW website, 24/02/2025). Whilst this represents <2% of total registered vehicles, the sales of new EVs in NSW reached 9.73% in December 2024 (Transport for NSW, 2025) showing a growing trend of people transitioning to new electric vehicles in NSW. This growth in the number of new car sales being EVs over the next four to five years (>50% by 20230-31 (NSW Electric Vehicle Strategy, 2021) means regional destinations will need to provide EV charging infrastructure and amenities for EV drivers to ensure that regional tourism is EV friendly and that these towns do not miss out on economic opportunities if EV drivers choose to travel to other regions with better EV infrastructure.



New car sales growth over the next four to five years means regional destinations will need to provide EV charging infrastructure and amenities.

Regional tourism must be EV friendly so that towns do not miss out on economic opportunities.

EV drivers already plan their road trips according to the location of charging infrastructure. However, information that is needed by EV drivers when visiting regional NSW is generally insufficient, not centrally consolidated and is located in varied locations.

Charging providers identified that NSW was considered to be the most EV-friendly state in Australia (Drive, 2024). However, there is an opportunity to improve access to charging infrastructure across regional NSW and promote EV travel. The aim of this framework is to assist local councils and business communities to attract visitors by offering something to see and do while their car is charging.



1.2 Definition



An EV friendly town is one where:



There is sufficient and appropriate EV Charging infrastructure

to meet the current number of EV travellers as well as cater for the expected future growth in EV travellers

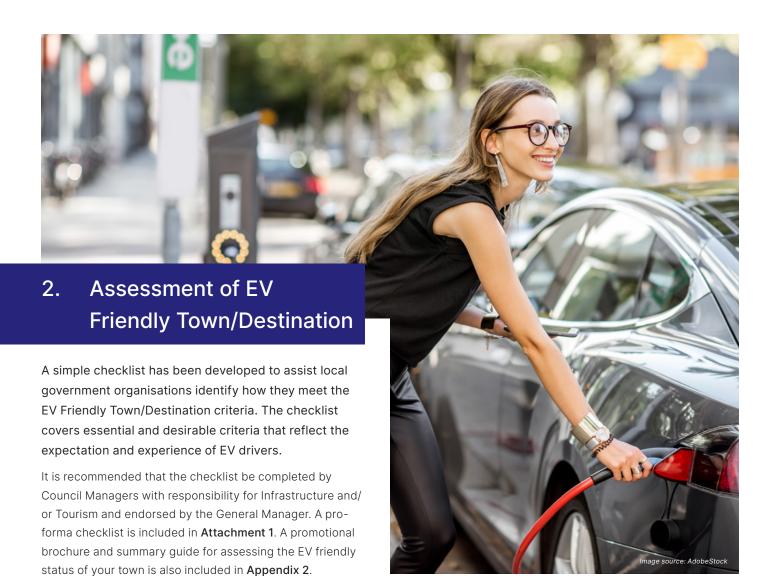


EVCI is accessible in all aspects - easy to find through sufficient signposting on town entry roads and available to people of all abilities



Visitor experience opportunities are available

within easy walking distance to EVCI, that is centrally located to museums or other tourism places of interest as well as places to access food and beverages and retail opportunities





The essential and desirable criteria have been developed based on findings of other traveller/destination ratings such as the RV Friendly TownTM Program ratings¹ and some primary research undertaken as part of this project. An online survey was developed by MNCJO and FNWJO to seek information from EV drivers on what they considered would make towns EV friendly. The survey questions were informed by discussions with the Australian Electric Vehicle Association (AEVA), the EVC, Destination NSW Outback and Country and Destination North Coast. The survey of EV drivers was conducted through social media with assistance from AEVA who distributed it through their network (see section 3 for further detail).

¹RV Friendly Town™ Program – developed by the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia Limited



Essential criteria were deemed as:

- 1. Adequate number of chargers that are regularly monitored and maintained2.
- 2. Charging infrastructure is located where there is internet connectivity to enable operation of charging applications (Apps) on mobile devices.
- 3. EV chargers are located in a well-lit and safe location.
- 4. Access to toilets and facilities is within easy walking distances.
- 5. Clear and practical signage to EV charging infrastructure on approaches to towns and destinations, as well as at street/site level.
- 6. Charging infrastructure and parking spaces meet accessibility requirements for all users (see section 4.3).

Desirable criteria were deemed as:

- 7. Both DC and AC EV chargers with a variety of different charging speeds.
- 8. Visitor experience opportunities are available within easy walking distance to EVCI. Preferably centrally located to museums, galleries or other tourism places of interest (e.g. parks, swimming pools, National Parks etc.).
- 9. EV chargers located near hospitality and retail services
- 10. Drive-through/long vehicle parking charging bays are available for EVs towing trailers, vans, boats etc.
- 11. A regular monitoring system is established to ensure operational functionality.
- 12. Designated EV parking spaces at all public charging
- 13. The criteria have aligned closely to the RV Friendly Town[™] criteria since the general needs of travellers are similar in terms of their visitor experience and need for access to hospitality and retail services. The key difference is the availability, functionality and speeds of the EV charging infrastructure.

The EV Friendly Town/Destination checklist covers essential and desirable Image source: Shutterstock

View the Checklist

² The number and type of chargers considered as adequate will depend on demand which varies across NSW. A minimum would be at least 1 publicly available DC (fast) charger with dual charge points.

3. User Experience and Expectation

3.1 Visitor experience and expectation

MNCJO and FNWJO conducted a survey of EV drivers through social media with the assistance of the Australian Electric Vehicle Association (AEVA) network who distributed the survey to their members. Other EV users were also polled. There was a total of 83 responses to the on-line survey which was designed to identify what EV drivers look for when visiting regional towns. The age groups of respondents ranged from 20-29 years to over 70 years and included those who have been EV drivers from one to two (1-2) years to more than five (5) years.

The survey included 12 questions and an additional open comment field.

The key to positive visitor experiences for EV drivers, revolves primarily around the availability, accessibility, number and type of charging infrastructure. The survey results confirm this, as shown by the following figures. The availability of charging infrastructure as a determinant for EV drivers visiting rural towns was deemed "Absolutely essential" (21.69%), "Very important" (50.60%) (see **Figure 2**).

The age range and years of ownership of an EV also showed a trend consistent with EV ownership reported by the Electric Vehicle Council. Fiftynine (59%) percent of the responds to this survey were aged 55 years or older.

Proximity to and availability of amenities such as toilets, cafes, restaurants, retail services, parks or recreational spaces are considered essential for EV travellers to visit regional towns. Key responses are shown in **Figure 3** where respondents had opportunity to nominate several options. Highest ranked amenities included toilets (37.95%), cafes/restaurants (36.92%), shopping areas (10.77%) and parks and recreational spaces (9.74%). Survey respondents also mentioned a number of other key features including shade and good lighting at the charger sites.

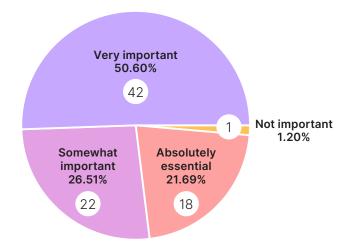


Figure 2 Response to survey question: "How important is the availability of EV charging stations in your decision to visit a rural town?"

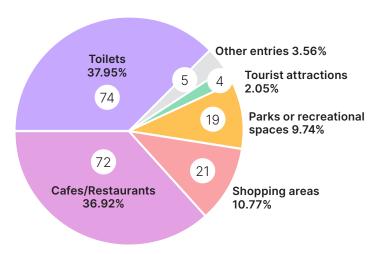


Figure 3 Response to survey question: "What amenities do you consider essential near charging infrastructure when visiting a rural town with your EV?"





Approximately 51% of survey respondents identified clear signage direction as "very important" with a further 46% identifying signage as "somewhat important".



The survey results showed that the type of EVCI available is also an important consideration, given that 80% of respondents stated they preferred to find a fast or an ultrafast charger in regional towns.

The most frustrating challenges experienced by EV drivers in regional areas were the lack of availability of chargers, the failure of chargers to work when identified as being operational or chargers that are not repaired due to repeated failures or vandalism



4.1 Types of Chargers

In order to ensure that EV travellers consider a town or destination as EV friendly, there needs to be a suitable number of chargers with adequate charging capacity. Strategically located EV chargers within regional towns or destination can enhance tourism and community engagement, promote new visitors, help grow the local economy and meet regional sustainability targets (e.g. emission reduction, transition to cleaner transport options etc.). The NSW Government has indicated that a minimum requirement for destinations to be considered EV friendly would be two (2) DC chargers and one (1) AC charger every 100 km stretch of the journey (Nature: the Lab, 2024) . This will vary across regional NSW depending on the take-up of EVs by local residents and the number of EV drivers visiting the region.

The The Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water recommends a minimum of two (2) Direct Current (DC) chargers, with at least two plugs/ports (and two bays) each. At least one bay per site needs to meet disability accessible parking bay compliance with respect to parking and charging accessibility (DCCEEW, 2024).



4.2 Location options and site selection

Site selection for EVCI to ensure it meets EV friendly criteria will include, but not be limited to:

- Adequate number of chargers that are regularly monitored and maintained. Councils are advised to ensure that lease agreements or service level agreements with charge point operators (CPOs) include monitoring to ensure that chargers are fully working and are appropriately maintained.
- Charging infrastructure is located where there is internet connectivity to enable operation of charging Apps on mobile devices.
- EV chargers are located in a well-lit and safe location.
- Speed of the chargers needs to be matched by available amenities for drivers whilst vehicles are charging.

4.3 Accessibility and availability

Incentives for EV drivers to stop at towns or destinations include meeting their needs for accessibility and availability of services, including:



Access to toilets and facilities

that are within easy walking distance. This includes cafes or restaurants, retail services, access to shade near the EVCI, as well as access to drinking water.



Clear and practical signage

to EV charging infrastructure on approaches to towns and destinations, as well as at street/site level.

Charging infrastructure and parking spaces meet accessibility requirements for all users.

Refer to guidance documents such as:



Minimum operating standards for government-supported public electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Published by the Australian Department of Energy, the Environment and Water 2024. Includes recommendations for disability accessible parking bay requirements that chargers must meet the relevant standards in accordance with AS/NZS 2890.6 Cl. 2.2.2 or AS/NZS 2890.6 Cl. 2.2.1, Cl.3.2 b) 11) as applicable.

Download the PDF

Design Guidelines for Accessible EV Charging Stations (RADG) -

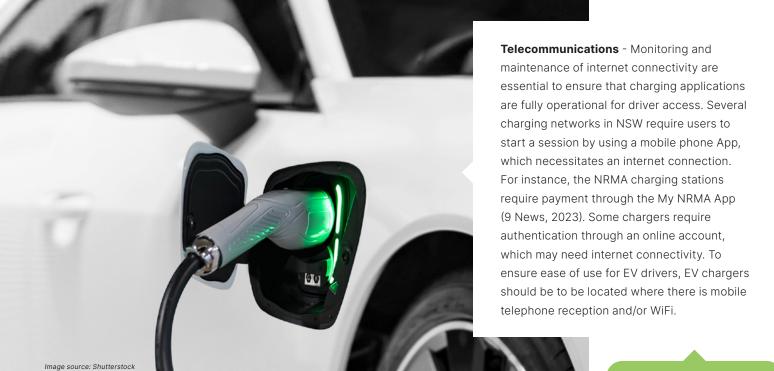
Royal Automobile Association (RAA) in South Australia, 2023. These guidelines aim to ensure that EV charging infrastructure is accessible for people with disability, particularly focusing on mobility challenges. The trial, done in partnership with

Guidance for Accessible EV Charging Infrastructure. Consultation Document. This research is funded by iMOVE CRC and supported by the Cooperative Research Centres program, an Australian Government initiative. (November 2024).

Go to the web site



4.4 Service requirements



Electricity - To ensure that the electricity supply and capacity are sufficient for EV charging infrastructure in Local Government Areas (LGAs), councils can take the following steps:

Work with electricity distribution network providers (e.g., Ausgrid, Endeavour Energy, Essential Energy in NSW) to assess local grid capacity.

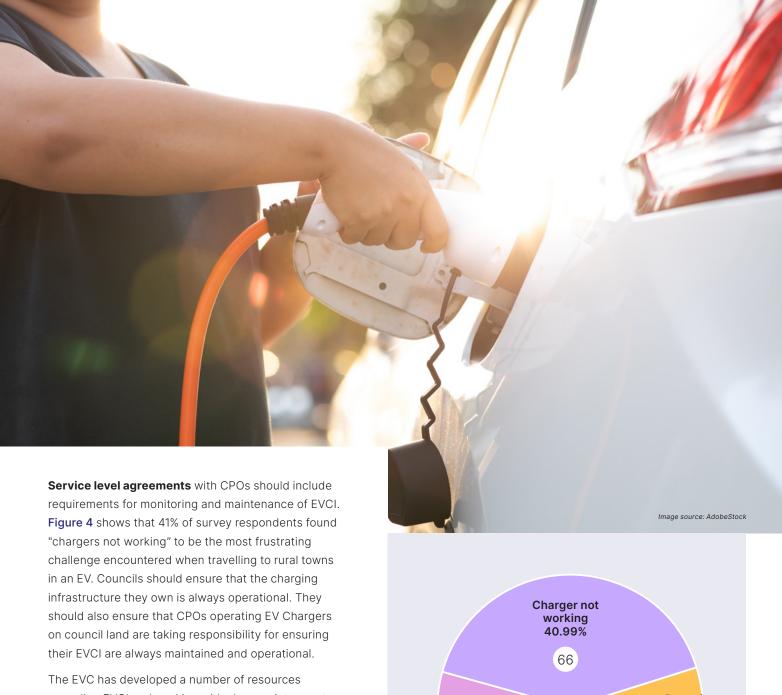
- Identify high-demand areas where additional infrastructure upgrades may be needed.
- Map out existing substations and available capacity to plan optimal charger locations.
- Request network planning data to understand power availability and avoid costly last-minute upgrades.
- Explore load management strategies with energy providers to prevent grid overload.
- Encourage installation of loadbalancing chargers that optimize power distribution based on demand.
- Require off-peak charging incentives or time-of-use tariffs to reduce grid stress during peak hours.

- Ensure new developments include EVready electrical capacity in planning permits.
- Work with developers and businesses to install onsite solar and battery storage to supplement grid demand.
- Apply for state and federal grants to fund grid expansion for EV charging.



Several charging networks in NSW require users to start a session by using a mobile phone App, which necessitates an internet connection

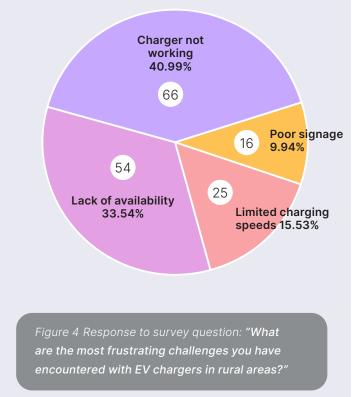




regarding EVCI and working with chare point operators, including a *Template License Agreement for EV*Charging Services and Infrastructure (EVC, 2025³)

View the PDF





³ Template License Agreement for EV Charging Services and Infrastructure – published by the Electric Vehicle Council. Web link

5. Promoting regional tourism

Providing an EV friendly town or destination can enhance opportunities for expanding regional tourism and economic growth.

Regional tourism organisations (e.g. Destination NSW)

Visit NSW has released a list of <u>EV Friendly Road Trips</u> which provides an excellent opportunity for councils to promote their EV Friendly Towns and link in with state promotions.

Regional Tourism organisations are keen to promote EV charging facilities in the regions. Destination NSW has a site promoting quick tips for creating EV friendly experiences **Click here**. This is another opportunity for the councils to link in with Regional Tourism Organisation initiatives.

An interactive tourism map called Eventure Map (eventuremap.nsw.gov.au) has been developed to enable EV drivers and other visitors to easily identify local tourism opportunities and points of interest within short walking distances from EV charging infrastructure.



Tourism operators

- · Car rental companies
- Awareness raising local community / EV drivers

This initiative has been supported by the Australian Electric Vehicle Association (AEVA). AEVA has been consulted throughout the process and has provided valuable advice that helped shape this resource to enhance EV driver experiences.

Local Councils

The EV Friendly Towns initiatives are designed to be driven by local councils. The Electric Vehicle Friendly Destination Checklist (See Attachment 1) has been provided to councils to allow them to complete a self-assessment of their towns and to act as an aspirational tool for councils looking to attract EV drivers to their region.

Councils are encouraged to regularly update and maintain points of interest on the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) database as the Eventure Map (eventuremap.nsw.gov.au) will be updated daily from ATDW.



Partnerships with local businesses and local benefits

Local councils can raise awareness amongst their local businesses and community that will help enhance the EV friendly status of their towns. Understanding the essential and desirable needs of EV drivers (as outlined in section 2) provides opportunities for local businesses to capitalise on the economic benefits of having EV drivers stop in their towns to charge their vehicles and take advantage of retail and hospitality services.



5.1 Other stakeholders

Key stakeholders with an interest in EV friendly towns/destinations include:

- Visitors driving EVs.
- EV user groups (e.g. Australian Electric Vehicle Association (AEVA).
- EV drivers and owners Facebook groups.
- Electric Vehicle Council (EVC) peak national body representing the electric vehicle industry in Australia.
- Destination NSW
- NSW Department of Transport

6. References

Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia Limited (not dated) RV Friendly Town™ Program.

DCCEEW (2023) National Electric Vehicle Strategy (2023) Published by the Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

DCCEEW (2024) <u>Minimum Operating Standards for Government-supported Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure – Guidance Document</u>. Published by the Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

Nature: the Lab (2024) *Electric Vehicle Driver research: Strategic Report*. Prepared for NSW DCCEEW, Transport for NSW and Destination NSW (May 2024).

Destination NSW (2025) Web site promoting quick tips for creating EV friendly experiences.

Drive (2024) These are the most EV-friendly states in Australia. Article by Ethan Cardinal in Drive on line, 13 April 2024

Electric Vehicle Council (2024) Australian Electric Vehicle Industry Recap 2023.

Electric Vehicle Council (2025) State of Electric Vehicles 2024.

Electric Vehicle Council (2025) Template License Agreement for EV Charging Services and Infrastructure

NRMA (2024) *Changing Gears: The road ahead for Electric Vehicle adoption in Australia*. Report prepared by Ipsos for Insurance Australia Group (IAG), October 2024.

NSW Office of Environment (2021) *NSW Electric Vehicle Strategy*. Published by Environment, Energy and Science, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on behalf of NSW Government, June 2021.

Transport NSW (2025) Registration snapshot report. Data from 23/02/2025 accessed from website on 24/02/2025.

Visit NSW (2025) EV Friendly Road Trips

7. Other Resources:

- Eventure Map an interactive tourism map for finding points of interest located near EVCI (eventuremap.nsw.gov.au)
- Quick tips for creating EV-friendly experiences. <u>Destination NSW website</u>
- · How to make your town a preferred charging stop for EV drivers. NSW Climate and Energy Action website
- Myth buster links:
 - Top 10 Electric Vehicle Myths Busted. Electric Vehicle Council (July 2017) Publised on website
 - Little Book of EV Myths Australian Edition. (2025) <u>Published by The Australian Electric Vehicle Association (AEVA)</u> on website
 - EV fact or fiction: busting common electric vehicle myths. (April 2024) Published on NRMA website
 - Electric Vehicle Myths. USEPA (January 2025). Published on website



Attachment 1 Electric Vehicle Friendly Destination Checklist

Insert Council Logo	
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EV Friendly Destination Checklist

Local Government area:	
Town/Destination:	
Date:	

This is a simple checklist to assist local government organisations identify how they meet the EV Friendly Town/Destination criteria.

It is recommended that the checklist be completed by Council Managers with responsibility for Infrastructure and/or Tourism and endorsed by the General Manager.

Ess	ential Criteria	Completed by:	Meets criteria
1.	Adequate number of chargers that are regularly monitored and maintained.		
2.	Charging infrastructure is located where there is internet connectivity to enable operation of charging Apps on mobile devices.		
3.	EV chargers are located in a well-lit and safe location.		
4.	Access to toilets and facilities is within easy walking distances.		
5.	Clear and practical signage to EV charging infrastructure on approaches to towns and destinations, as well as at street/site level.		
6.	Charging infrastructure and parking spaces meet accessibility requirements for all users.		

Desirable Criteria Completed by		Meets criteria	
7.	Both DC and AC EV chargers with a variety of different charging speeds.		
8.	Visitor experience opportunities are available within easy walking distance to EVCI. Preferably centrally located to museums, galleries or other tourism places of interest (e.g. parks, swimming pools, National Parks etc.).		
9.	EV chargers located near hospitality and retail services		
10.	Drive-through/ long vehicle parking charging bays are available for EVs towing trailers, vans, boats etc.		
11.	A regular monitoring system is established to ensure operational functionality.		
12.	Designated EV parking spaces at all public charging stations		

Checklist completed by:	Infrastructure Manager	Tourism Manager
Name:		
Position:		
Date		
Signature:		
Checklist endorsed by		General Manager
Name:		
Date:		
Signature:		

EV Friendly Town Desirable Criteria:

Desirable criteria to enhance the EV Friendly nature of your town include:

Completing the Self-Assessment Checklist for

Achieve EV Friendly status by:

www.evtoolkit.centralnswjo.com/e v-toolkit

or use the QR code below.

councils, which can be found at:



chargers with a variety of different charging Both DC and AC EV speeds.



EV chargers located near hospitality and retail services



charging stations

system is established to ensure operational

functionality.

A regular monitoring



Designated EV parking spaces at all public



vehicle parking charging bays are available for Drive-through/long EVs towing trailers, vans, boats etc.



How to make

Ensuring you meet the six "Essential" criteria.

Endeavouring to meet as many of the

"Desirable" criteria as possible.

museums, galleries or of interest (e.g. parks, other tourism places available within easy centrally located to National Parks etc.). to EVCI. Preferably Visitor experience opportunities are walking distance swimming pools,



your tourism networks to encourage EV drivers to visit your town and engage the with the local Publicising your EV Friendly status through economy.

Getting endorsement from the Council General

Manager.



Regularly monitoring and reviewing your status and consider ways to make your town more EV Friendly.



Jse the QR code to get more nformation and access to resources on How to make our town EV friendly.

easy-to-use self-assessmen checklist that will help you

identify the EV Friendly





AR NORTH WES

NS SOVERNMENT

This resource was developed by the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation and the Far North West Joint Organisation with funding from the NSW Government.

EV Friendly Town Essentials

charging infrastructure on approaches to townsand destinations, as well as at

street/site level

Clear and practical signage to EV

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Adequate number of chargers that are monitored and maintained EV Charging infrastructure is sufficient to meet the current number of EV travellers as well as cater for the expected future growth in EV travellers.

enable operation of charging

APPs on mobile devices

is located where there is

internet connectivity to

Charging infrastructure

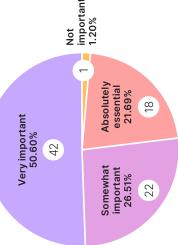


one fast charger in a own so that you are not stranded if one 'Need more than

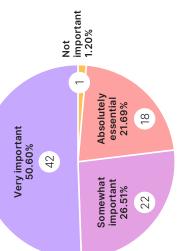
(EV Driver Survey, 2025)

Quote from EV driver breaks."

How important is the availability of EV charging stations These are the responses to the survey question:



in your decision to visit a rural town?



The majority of survey respondents

located in a well-lit

က

EV chargers are

and safe location

when asked: How can rural towns make themselves more attractive highlighted lighting as improtant to the EV Driver Survey (2025) to EV drivers?

lighting and all hours access

sufficient Provide

at chargers.

facilities is within easy Access to toilets and walking distances Response to survey question: "What amenities do you consider essential visiting a rural town with your EV?" near charging infrastructure when

booths provide Telstra phone wifi access be suitable and could Hot Tip:

locations for EV chargers.

accessibility requirements and parking spaces meet Charging infrastructure for all users

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Quote from EV driver (EV Driver Survey, 2025) Ensure parking spots are disability friendly and appropriately sized"

> 36.73% Toilets 36 9 40 20 walking distance **Toilets are the**

Parks or recreational

Shopping areas

Cafes/ restaurants

9.18%

13.27% 13

34.69% 34 တ

20