



Sydney gets nation's first public electric car charging station

Australia's first public on-street electric vehicle charging station will be opened today by Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore MP. The charging station, in Derby Place, Glebe, was installed by Visionstream and is managed by ChargePoint. It will recharge a converted plug-in hybrid Toyota Prius in three hours using 100 per cent GreenPower from Origin. The vehicle, part of the GoGet car share scheme, has an electric motor range of 30 km, 2 km longer than 80 per cent of regular GoGet trips. Ms Moore said electric vehicles (EVs) have zero exhaust emissions, while car sharing replaced up to 10 privately owned cars for each shared vehicle. "Each day more than 700,000 cars travel throughout the Sydney Local Government Area, significantly contributing to smog, greenhouse gas pollution, congestion and noise." "Anything we can do to decrease the greenhouse gas emissions caused by motor vehicles is a step towards a healthier city. Together with public transport, walking and cycling, electric vehicles are part of the climate change solution." "Today, Sydney joins other cities such as San Francisco, Amsterdam, Philadelphia, Houston, Detroit, Vancouver and London who all have installed charging infrastructure for electric vehicles." "When I was in Copenhagen in December for a Climate Change Summit I committed to working with the NSW Government, car share companies and others to scale up the purchase of electric vehicles. Today is a first step in supporting a cleaner mode of transport." "There are about 3,000 individual members of car share companies within the City of Sydney area, the majority with GoGet, including 500 small businesses. The City provides 120 dedicated on-street car share spaces, four times more than any other Australian city. Worldwide, car share membership has risen from around 50,000 users in 1997 to 550,000 in 2009. Car share schemes provide a network of vehicles which members can book to use for short periods of time (from one hour to several days). Costs associated with fuel, insurance and maintenance are usually included in the operators' car hire fees. GoGet co-founder, Bruce Jeffreys said members will be able to drive the plug-in electric hybrid at the same price as the rest of the GoGet hybrid fleet. "It's great to see a plug-in electric hybrid vehicle in a safe and convenient location with a world-class charging station ready to go," said Jeffreys. "We're looking forward to the introduction of additional electric vehicles into the GoGet fleet as demand grows".

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