

***Call for Submission of Motions***  
***Councils are invited to submit motions for debate***  
***to be Included at General Meetings***

Name of Council : Brighton Council.....

Contact person (name, title) Ms Megan Braslin, Executive Officer .....

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Date of General Meeting for Motion to be Included.....

**Motion Requirements:**

In order for a Motion to be considered please indicate if the proposed Motion:

- Addresses the objectives of the Association<sup>1</sup>.
- Concerns a local government matter.
- Is a matter of common concern to councils and not a specific local issue.
- Is linked to LGAT's current Annual Plan, available [here](#)
- It not an existing resolution of the sector (please refer to the Follow up of Resolutions Report in the preceding General Meeting for a list of current resolutions).
- Has not been considered at a General Meeting in the 12 months prior.
- Relates to existing, or sought activities/policy of the Tasmanian Government and would benefit from members understanding the Tasmanian Government position prior to considering<sup>2</sup>.

***LGAT staff are happy to assist you in developing your motion. Please phone 03 6146 3740 in the first instance.***

**Please attach –**

The proposed Motion, which should clearly articulate the action required of LGAT or the policy position being sought from the sector.

The attachment should also include additional background comments to ensure members have a complete understanding of what is being sought and how the Motion addresses the requirements listed above.

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<sup>1</sup> The objectives of LGAT are

- (a) Protect and represent the interests and rights of Councils in Tasmania;
- (b) Promote an efficient and effective system of local government in Tasmania; and
- (c) Provide services to Members, councillors and employees of Councils.

<sup>2</sup> Council should consider raising the motion at the General Meeting when State Government Comment on Motions is sought, **in 2022 this will be the 16 September General Meeting.**

**LGAT Submission -Meeting March 2022****Decision Sought**

That LGAT advocate to the Federal Government for the removal/exemption of FBT on Electric vehicles where use is restricted to travel between home and work.

**Background**

Brighton Council brought the issue of Fringe Benefit Tax impediments for full electric vehicles to the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority's attention, seeking endorsement to send an advocacy letter to the Federal Government from the STCA (attached). This was subsequently endorsed on 17 November 2021. The letter urges the Federal Government to:

“add Electric Vehicles to the Australian Taxation Office eligible vehicles where private vehicle use is restricted to travel between home and work.”

The STCA represents a significant proportion of Tasmania's population and advocates for climate change action via the Regional Climate Change Initiative (2011 to 2021).

Brighton Council authored the letter to Federal Government Minister Angus Taylor and cites Brighton Council as one local government example of many, working to reduce the barriers to electric vehicle adoption.

**Brighton Council internal electric vehicle review November 2021 summary**

Brighton Council has recently reviewed opportunities to switch to full electric vehicles as part of endorsing a corporate emission reduction target of 30% below 2021 levels by 2030, on the pathway to zero emissions by 2040.

Cost is one of the biggest barriers preventing broadscale switches within local government fleets.

Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) becomes a significant financial cost for roughly half of Brighton Council's light vehicle fleet (not heavy vehicle/trucks) as most of the take-home-work-vehicles are utes, which do not attract FBT. As soon as these are switched to an electric sedan or hatchback for the same purpose, a Federal Government Fringe Benefit Tax applies.

The FBT exemption for take home, private use restricted utes can be as high as \$8000 per vehicle per year. The scale of this saving effectively renders all other vehicles more expensive. If this exemption applied to electric vehicles, it would instantly be cost effective for council to transition toward low emission electric vehicles, which would also benefit from charging when parked from council's roof top solar.

The current Liberal Coalition Federal Government recently reviewed the application of FBT to electric vehicles as part of the national Future Fuels and Vehicles Strategy and has no plans to alter the existing FBT policy. The recently announced Labor Party policy is to exempt FBT for all electric cars below the luxury car threshold for fuel efficient cars from July 2022, should they win the next election.

The landscape for low emissions and EVs is changing rapidly. We should take every sensible opportunity to reduce emissions, make savings and improve efficiency.

Communities look to Council's for leadership on issues such as climate change action and it emerged as a core priority for the Brighton Council community in the 2050 Vision consultation. There is a key role for government to demonstrate emerging technologies, such as the Tasmanian Government has by setting a 100% EV state government vehicle fleet target by 2030 and changing its stamp duty policy for EVs.