

Online submission

4 March 2024

**Australian Academy of Science submission on the
New Vehicle Efficiency Standard—Cleaner, Cheaper to run Cars for Australia consultation**

Transitioning to lower-emitting vehicles for road transport in Australia is urgent and requires ambitious action to achieve. Transport will be Australia's largest source of emissions in 2030 if no action is taken.¹

The Academy:

- Supports introducing a mandatory new vehicle efficiency standard for light vehicles as a critical step to reducing emissions in the transport sector.
- Recommends that the Australian Government proceed with the **most ambitious** option presented in the consultation paper in alignment with the need to rapidly decarbonise to meet global climate targets.

Energy used for transport accounted for 21.1% of Australia's total annual greenhouse gas emissions in the year to June 2023,² with light vehicles (passenger vehicles and light commercial vehicles) accounting for around 60% of all transport emissions.³

New vehicle efficiency standards are a well-established mechanism to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A 2014 report by the Climate Change Authority found that mandatory light vehicle efficiency standards "are a cost-effective way to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions and light vehicle fuel use".⁴

Technologies to improve fuel efficiency and electrify road transport exist and are being improved upon. However, Australia's previous inaction on efficiency standards reduces their availability to Australian consumers. Australia is over a decade behind many other nations in implementing new vehicle efficiency standards, with almost every other advanced economy having such standards. Why should this continue?

The Academy recommends the Australian Government proceed with Option C in alignment with Australia's obligations and the necessity of mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.

To discuss or clarify any aspect of this submission, please contact Mr Chris Anderson, Director Science Policy at Chris.Anderson@science.org.au.

¹ Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (2023). [Australia's emissions projections 2023](#).

² Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (2023). [Quarterly Update of Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory: June 2023](#).

³ Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. [Emissions inventories](#).

⁴ Climate Change Authority (2014). [Light vehicle emissions standards for Australia](#).