

WA ELECTRIC VEHICLE NETWORK

Statement by Minister for Energy

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): This will be first of many I hope.

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Energy) [1.03 pm]: Here we go. I am pleased to inform the house that our state-owned energy companies are making excellent progress in rolling out the WA electric vehicle network. The WA EV network is part of the Cook Labor government's \$43.5 million investment in EV infrastructure in WA, aimed at boosting EV uptake to support our journey to net zero emissions by 2050. Synergy and Horizon Power are installing 98 new electric vehicle charging stations across 49 locations—from Kununurra in the north to Esperance in the south and Eucla in the east. Our state-owned energy companies are installing these chargers along key travel routes, averaging less than 200 kilometres apart. The WA EV network will span 7 000 kilometres, making it the longest in Australia. It will unlock the state for EV drivers and their families, thereby driving EV uptake.

Last week, the Minister for Climate Action joined me at Kings Park to cut the ribbon on the first WA EV network charger in Perth. The EV charging site is on May Drive, opposite Zamia Cafe. It represents the central node of the WA EV network, linking Perth to regional towns throughout the state. Kings Park hosts six million visitors every year, and now they will be able to top up their EVs in as little as 20 minutes. We opened the Kings Park charging station on Wednesday last week, and since then we have added another in Carnarvon.

The member for North West Central joined Horizon Power at the launch of its latest charging site at the Carnarvon Visitor Centre. I thank the member for North West Central for her support for this Cook Labor government initiative. The Carnarvon charging site was the tenth to come online since April this year, joining Broome, Northampton, Geraldton, Lancelin, Manjimup, Williams, Walpole, Albany and Kings Park. The communities of Exmouth, Karratha, Esperance and Denham will join the WA EV network imminently, with Horizon Power well advanced in delivering those charging stations.

The Cook Labor government's WA EV network is already opening up the state for EV drivers and their families. There have been more than 1 500 charging sessions along the network since the first charging site went live. The WA EV network is giving EV drivers the confidence to explore our state without range anxiety. Together with other charging infrastructure, the network is facilitating tourism and enabling EV drivers to support regional economies. The Cook government's WA EV network is part of our electric vehicle action plan, which is helping to drive EV uptake and steer WA towards a clean energy future, Acting Speaker—with an electric vehicle yourself!