



**ELECTRIFYING
CONVERSATIONS**

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact:

Dee West or Natalie Crook

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Electrifying Conversations

dee@electrifyingconversations.co.nz

Ph Dee: +64 21 968 748

Ph Natalie: +64 27 202 7227

URL: electrifyingconversations.co.nz

Be Our Guest Mike Hosking: An Open Response to “Mike’s Minute” on 10 October 2019

Sensationalism and an epidemic of “[lazy journalism](#)” spreads misinformation. When opinion is misrepresented as a proven truth, tempers and internet clicks often run white hot. Journalists and broadcasters have a responsibility to provide their audience with accurate and well-researched opinions, backed up by supporting evidence.

A recent [opinion piece](#) by Mike Hosking repeats a number of misconceptions about the electric vehicle industry. A hearty and well researched debate, or even a passionate conversation can and should be open to scrutiny, and many climate change and electric vehicle activists, academics, and champions are keen to engage in just such a debate with Mike Hosking.

He first hits out at the Government for aiming to have all government cars emissions-free by 2025 and ‘breaking their promise’

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern replies directly to that claim, “No, we have not abandoned it. We have a goal of moving our fleet to electric by 2025/26. We’re practicable, so there will be some circumstances where there is not going to be something to meet the needs. But that is our goal and that remains our goal.”

Hosking also claims there are only 78 electric vehicles in the Government Fleet of 15,000 vehicles. There are in fact [591 electrified vehicles currently in the fleet](#).

When the Prime Minister was questioned on the AM Show about the amount of electric vehicles within the government fleet, she responded:

“We’ve said that when a purchase is made, the agencies that are buying have to bring down their emissions profile by 20% year-on-year. So we’re basically requiring them, that even if there isn’t an EV that does the job, they have to reduce their emissions profile. So they’ve got to turn the dial over time, and that means that they



ELECTRIFYING CONVERSATIONS

MEDIA RELEASE

are buying more efficient vehicles that have lower emissions while we are also transferring to an EV fleet. We are looking at ways we can speed it up though because the overall numbers I don't think are good enough, even though we are seeing those emission numbers come down."

People are choosing Electric Vehicles for a vast number of reasons - economic, environmental, and excellent performance - all play a part in the value proposition for the uptake of electric vehicles.

A comprehensive [global report](#) by the IEA (International Energy Agency) states electrification of transport has gained, and continues to gain momentum globally

The transition is not without challenges, however New Zealand can and should be a global leader in the research and development of the vast array of solutions and innovation needed to help nurture this growth sector.

In his article, Hosking also posits that it isn't possible to recycle batteries from Electric Vehicles. Auckland based company Upcycle beg to differ. They are able to recycle over 99% of lithium-ion battery components. Upcycle are continuing to research and innovate better solutions for managing not only [batteries](#), but E-waste as well.

Making your next car purchase an EV, if there is a model available that will fit your needs, is a good decision for you and the planet. Buying an EV has a long-term economic ROI, as fuel prices continue to soar. Filling batteries in your car overnight in your garage on a lower off-peak rate, means you pay on average 30c "per litre equivalent" in electricity; a significant saving of paying over \$2.00 at the petrol pumps.

Choosing to drive an EV is one of the single most impactful things an individual or company can do to reduce their carbon footprint. [Every litre of petrol burned](#) by an internal combustion engine creates 2.3kg of CO₂.

The current average purchase price of a brand new EV appears to be the main barrier for home consumers. As was the case with flat screen TVs, cell phones and other new technologies there will be early adopters and they will pay the higher price before economies of scale allow prices to decrease drastically. As the price continues to drop the rest of the population will happily join the global transition toward carbon divestment.

Most people who have experienced driving a 100% electric car simply want one because of its better performance and low running costs.



ELECTRIFYING CONVERSATIONS

MEDIA RELEASE

EV enthusiast and advocate Rachelle Tilsley remarked that:

“Hosking’s attempt at creating a straw man collapses from a single incredulous gasp from any EV Owner reading his poorly researched article.”

Julie Anne Genter, the Associate Transport Minister, may well have claimed in all seriousness that we can run our fridges on repurposed EV batteries - this was another point ridiculed by Hosking in his [opinion piece](#). Refrigeration is one of the heaviest electricity consumers in a NZ household after all. A used Nissan LEAF battery pack can in fact be repurposed to run an average household’s energy requirements, including the fridge!

Hosking also addresses issues of production and mining. Developing countries have as much right as any other country to ethically harvest their mineral resources using their labour force. All manufactured products in the USA and Europe must state where they source any contentious metals from. Tesla, BMW and Nissan, as examples, have declared that their cobalt is sourced ethically from Cobalt Institute members. The CI has a zero tolerance policy towards child or forced labour. Cobalt is a by-product of other mining activities, namely copper and nickel mines. So it stands to reason that cobalt on its own, shouldn’t carry all the blame for any unethical mining processes. Lithium, which is the main component of electric vehicle batteries, is not contentious nor rare. [Sergio Baron](#), CEO of Dynami, and one of our keynote speakers at [Electrifying Conversations](#) will demystify the process of sourcing lithium and provide an overview of best practice in battery production.

It is clear that Mr Hosking and his fan-base have serious concerns about the uptake of electric vehicles. There’s no better place to learn and share knowledge than at a global networking event, specifically tailored to discuss carbon divestment and energy independence for Aotearoa.

Mike Hosking you are cordially invited to attend the first ever Electrifying Conversations Conference at Auckland’s ASB showgrounds on Friday, 1 November 2019.

This event brings together only the very best and brightest from across the transport, energy, infrastructure, and climate resilience sectors from around New Zealand and the globe. This would be a wonderful opportunity to share and gain knowledge.

- This is the inaugural Electrifying Conversation.
- Leading authorities, activists, and champions across New Zealand and the globe will convene for one day to discuss a comprehensive and impactful path towards carbon divestment and energy independence for Aotearoa, and one day globally.
- Electrifying Conversations will become a bi-annual event.
- Electrifying Conversations will be held at the ASB Showgrounds in Auckland on Friday, 1 November, 2019.