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## Transport must play its part in a cleaner economy

Proposals for Australian vehicle emissions standards to catch up with global markets are critical for a whole of economy approach to decarbonisation.

“The decarbonisation of the Australian economy requires all sectors to play their part,” Energy Networks Australia CEO, John Bradley said.

“While the focus has been on the electricity generation sector, there are also opportunities for decarbonising transport in Australia –the road transport sector accounted for 79 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e in 2015, or 85% of total transport emissions. Light vehicles accounted for 72 per cent of road transport emissions,” Mr Bradley said.

“We expect that diverse range of transport solutions are needed for a cleaner economy,” Mr Bradley said.

“Cleaner vehicles such as compressed natural gas, electric or hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles can make a significant contribution to reducing emissions in the transport sector.

“Vehicle emissions standards are the gap in Australia,” Mr Bradley said.

The Australian Government’s consultation paper indicates that the proposed model could cut costs to customers by up to \$28 billion by 2040 with annual fuel savings for the average owner of a passenger car and light commercial vehicle of up to \$519 and \$666 respectively.

“Australia’s energy transition needs to have clear, long-term objectives that industry and market participants can respond to.

“Appropriate fuel efficiency standards can support technology neutral emissions reduction, and better outcomes for customers and the environment –without direct subsidies to particular solutions,” Mr Bradley said.

The Ministerial Forum on Vehicle Emissions is currently considering fuel standards, emissions standards and efficiency of vehicles. The Forum intends to provide a draft implementation plan on potential measures later this year for consideration by the Australian Government.

**ENDS**

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*Energy Networks Australia represents Australia’s electricity transmission and distribution networks and gas distribution networks. Our members provide energy to virtually every household and business in Australia.*