



TAA and Contact “Flying” Park Charging Station

Executive Summary

Contact is proposing to install a dual electric vehicle charger at the Taupo Airport including a permanent site for a Contact electric vehicle and a communal site free for the community to use. The government has a goal of reaching 64,000 electric vehicles on our roads by the end of 2021. There are currently two main barriers which are slowing the uptake of electric vehicles. These are misconceptions about electric vehicles and limited public charging infrastructure. By promoting the use of electric vehicles and filling a gap in the electric vehicle charging network, Contact hope to support the government in reaching its goal.

Background

As one of the largest generators and retailers of electricity in New Zealand we have a significant scope to influence sustainable outcomes in New Zealand. We have identified some 17 material issues for our company – the themes of these issues are Water, Climate Change, Energy Affordability, Access to Energy and Biodiversity. The focus of Contacts sustainability programme is to develop our responses to these key issues – through collaboration, partnership and working with our stakeholders. We believe that by taking many small steps we can make a huge difference.

Electricity and energy is an essential service. As an industry, we have a responsibility to ensure that we’re looking at how we balance energy security, energy equity, and environmental stewardship. This is a big issue – and one that will take some time to address, we have started by looking at our own processes and taking small steps to improve them. One message from our stakeholders is clear, that we need to work in partnership with our communities and existing support systems.

Contact is undertaking a number of initiatives to support the accelerated uptake of electric vehicles (EV) in New Zealand. We have partnered with other industry peers to support the Electric Highway initiative, which seeks to establish chargers from the top of the North Island to the bottom of the south, while providing an app to help people locate the charging stations that exist across the country. 20% of our vehicle fleet is now electric and we’ve set a target of converting at least 30% of our fleet to EVs by 2019.

Contact staff travel regularly between Wellington head office and our generation sites. Staff arriving in Taupo from Wellington will generally hire a rental car to take them from the airport to the Wairakei site. Often, they will be doing a day trip only, so will return the car at the end of the day. On average, we hire 24 rental cars per month for a very short trip to and from the airport.

We have identified an opportunity which will help us reduce our scope 2 vehicle emissions, encourage our staff to use transport more efficiently, promote electric vehicle use, fill a gap in the electric charging network and provide our community with a charging site (free of charge).

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Contact appreciate that the Taupo District Council is already playing an instrumental role in promoting the use of electric vehicle chargers throughout the district. Building capacity by installing infrastructure will help encourage the uptake of this clean technology, supporting Taupo's brand and accommodating the needs of the growing tourism market.

Proposal

This proposal is a partnership between the Taupo Airport Authority (TAA) and Contact that will result in the first charging stations for EV's installed in the parking facilities at the airport.

The concept is to install a charging station capable of servicing two EV's in the parking area directly in front of the main entrance to the airport terminal. Contact would like to use one of the charging points for its own fleet and the remaining charger would be made available for general use by the public.

Contact would cover all costs of installation and maintenance associated with the upkeep of the charging station. Once commissioned, the charging station allocated for general use will be free for the public to use for an initial two year period. There is no cost envisaged to the airport apart from allowing Contact to occupy two parking spaces, one of which would be dedicated for a company vehicle (which is most likely to be parked and charging overnight as it will be use during the day).

Contact would like to propose that the "Flying" Park Charging Station is branded as a joint effort by both ourselves and TAA to bring an electric vehicle charger to the airport, enabling people with EV's to travel to our district to enjoy everything we have to offer.

If the TAA committee accept our proposal we believe that we will be able to have the charging station up and running by December 2017, just in time to take advantage of the busy holiday period.

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