

11 May 2023

Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport
evchargingstrategy@transport.govt.nz

Charging Our Future: a draft long-term electric vehicle charging strategy for Aotearoa New Zealand

1. Orion New Zealand Limited (**Orion**) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the Draft Long-term Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy for Aotearoa New Zealand.
2. The accompanying Discussion Document provides a list of questions that Te Manatū Waka is seeking comment on. We have addressed those questions in the attached document.

Orion's strategy

3. We own and operate the electricity distribution infrastructure in Central Canterbury, including Ōtautahi Christchurch. Our network is both rural and urban and extends over 8,000 square kilometres from the Waimakariri River in the north to the Rakaia River in the south; from the Canterbury coast to Arthur's Pass. We deliver electricity to more than 220,000 homes and businesses and are New Zealand's third largest Electricity Distribution Business (EDB).
4. Orion's Group purpose of "*Powering a cleaner and brighter future with our community*" is central to all we do. As Aotearoa New Zealand transitions to a low carbon economy, the energy sector has a critical part to play. Orion has established its purpose to be a vital player in that transition for our community and our region. We are focused on helping our community realise its dreams for a future that is new, better, and more sustainable over the long term.
5. To this end, our group strategy is as follows:



6. As you can see, two of our focus areas are facilitating decarbonisation and hosting capacity at lowest costs, as well as investing to maintain a safe, reliable, resilient network at lowest total lifecycle cost.
7. In facilitating decarbonisation we know that Central Canterbury accounts for approximately 10% of the New Zealand vehicle fleet, and we expect around half a million vehicles will be fuelled by our network in the future. We know that we have a vital role to play in the shift to electric vehicles and facilitating that change in a timely and transparent way.
8. Because EVs are good for New Zealand and good for our customers, we started establishing a network of public charging stations around Christchurch and surrounds during 2016. This means that EV drivers will never be too far away from getting a charging boost. This includes 16 chargers at Orion's offices at 565 Wairakei Road in Burnside, Christchurch, in support of electrification of our vehicle fleet.
9. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this submission. We do not consider any part of our submission to be confidential. If you have any questions about our comments, please get in touch as we are more than happy to discuss with you. The contact for this submission is Vivienne Wilson, vivienne.wilson@oriongroup.co.nz; and phone 027 202 2718.

Yours sincerely



Vivienne Wilson
Policy Lead