



Battery electric vehicles bevs wellington

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Each month, we are seeing a remarkable increase in the number of battery electric vehicles (BEVs) being registered in New Zealand, and with the new Clean Car Discount scheme announced, BEVs are more appealing than ever before.

For example, a 2021 Nissan Leaf has a 40kWh battery and an approximate range of 270km, whereas a 2021 Hyundai Kona Elite Series II EV has a range of around 484km thanks to its larger 64kWh battery.

Essentially, the larger the capacity, the bigger the price, and the further you are able to travel on a single charge. This shouldn't be confused with the power rating of the actual electric motor which is measured in kilowatts (kW). The power of the motor is what produces the impressive torque demonstrated by BEVs.

There are currently three main methods for charging a BEV battery available in NZ. Depending on your needs and the capacity of the BEV you choose, you may need to install the infrastructure to charge your vehicle at home. Sometimes, manufacturers include this in the price of the BEV, like Mazda who is offering early adopters of the new MX-30 will be treated to a free fast charge AC Wallbox Pulsar Plus.

This is designed to connect to a standard three-pin wall socket. This is a slow overnight charging method and will fully recharge a used Nissan Leaf in 6-8 hours, or a new Hyundai Kona Elite Series II EV in around 28 hours. The power supply from this cable is typically 10amp/2.4kW.

This is an optional wall box for your household and improves charge times by utilising a 16-32Amp, 3.7-22kW power supply. It can significantly reduce charging time at home but can sometimes cost over \$3,000 to purchase and install. This needs to be installed by a professional registered electrician and should be compliant with New Zealand regulations.

Finding a rapid charger is easy in some BEVs, but this isn't the case in some used models. There are websites such as ChargeNet that can aid you in finding your nearest charge station.

Another interesting add on is planned and under construction there is currently one in the North island and two in the South Island that are under Construction. You can also filter your charging site depending on charge method ie CHAdeMO, CCS or Type 2AC.

In Wellington, the AA has introduced a mobile breakdown van fitted with a lightweight BEV charger to support AA Members who are caught short on their journeys. In 20-25 minutes it enables enough charge to drive up to 10 kilometres so Members can get home or to a nearby charging station. If the Wellington trial is successful, the AA will look at expanding the service to other parts of the country.

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