

## 2024 CHIEF MINISTER'S CHALLENGE

### *WHAT CAN BE DONE IMMEDIATELY TO REDUCE ACT'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS?*

The ACT Chapter of the Pearcey Foundation is working on this challenge. Emissions from the Transport sector represent approximately 65% of all greenhouse gas emissions in the ACT. It is the obvious target for high priority attention. Noting the urgency of the challenge, we provide early our first, headline idea for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the immediate term.

## Make Public Transport Free

Encourage greater use of the ACT Public Transport system to reduce individual car usage by removing the perceived barrier of cost (especially for frequent travellers/commuters).

The loss to ACT Government revenue from fees collected through the Transport Card would represent the investment made by the government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Tap-on/tap-off is likely still an important action to monitor service use and refine timetables and routes.

### CONSEQUENTIAL AND SUPPORTING INITIATIVES

#### Integration with existing and future public transport options

Introducing a policy of free public transport would stimulate commuter take-up of public transport, over private vehicle use, and provide a ready cohort of commuters to take advantage of the ACT Government's zero emission public transport plan once delivered.

#### More buses and trams more often

A free public transport policy would become the centre piece of the ACT public transport strategy, integrating with existing multi-modal public transport initiatives such as 'park, and ride' and 'ride and ride' [bicycles], leverage new real time services of MyWay+, such as journey planning, and integrate with future mobility options such as ride-sharing for the 'last kilometre' between home and near-by public transport hubs.

Similarly, frequent 'round the town' 'shuttle' services may allay some commuters concerns about not having personal transport available.

### LONGER-TERM, MORE ADVENTUROUS SUPPORTING INITIATIVES

#### Increase the convenience of public transport

Develop an app that allows commuters to indicate their intention to travel in the next (say) 30 minutes to allow flexible routing of buses around suburbs collecting commuters to deliver to the closest hub. Most useful in evenings/nights and weekends/public holidays.

#### Enable and reward private ZE transport behaviours

Ancillary to the above, expand the availability of EV charging points, adjacent to designated parking bays, near work centres and allow parking for long periods for the cost of the electricity used charging the vehicle.