

Media Release

The Hon Melissa Horne MP
Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Ports and Freight
Minister for Roads and Road Safety



Sunday, 5 May 2024

ZERO EMISSIONS VEHICLE GRANTS HELP DRIVE DOWN COSTS

The Allan Labor Government's grants to incentivise companies to take on Zero Emissions Vehicles (ZEV) are seeing producers and industry cut their emissions and save on operating costs.

One of Australia's largest dried fruit growers Duxton Dried Fruits is a prime example of how the Labor Government's \$5 million Commercial Sector Innovation Fund is not only driving sustainability but driving down costs.

Duxton, a Sunraysia-owned business, received grant funding to trial six zero emissions vehicles and establish a solar charging station at their Wemen vineyard near Robinvale in north-west Victoria.

This transition to fully-electric Ultra Terrain Vehicles for harvests, yard duties, irrigation checks, and weed control has eliminated the need for fuel trucks to come from out of town and reduced reliance on emergency fuel, resulting in substantial savings for the company.

The switch to ZEV technology is expected to slash Duxton's yearly emissions by 29 tonnes and save the company more than \$10,000 in fuel costs.

Duxton is also working with the Mallee Regional Innovation Centre to encourage greater adoption of ZEV technology across the industry.

Victoria has legislated the most ambitious climate targets in the country, working towards 95 percent renewable energy generation by 2035 and net zero by 2045.

These targets will support Victoria to seize the enormous economic opportunity climate action presents – generating \$63 billion of economic benefits and generating thousands of jobs.

Quote attributable to Minister for Ports and Freight Melissa Horne

"We want to see more businesses like Duxton switch to zero emissions vehicles – it's not only good for cutting emissions, it's good for businesses' bottom line."

Quote attributable to Minister for Climate Action Lily D'Ambrosio

"The transport sector is one of the most significant contributors to our state's emissions – that's why we're supporting business to go electric, helping them be more energy efficient and keep their operating costs down."

Quote attributable to Henry Young, Sustainability Project Officer, Duxton Capital Australia

"We've replaced a fuel bowser and fuel tank at the vineyard – we no longer need trucks to come from town to fill it up and don't have to run off to town for emergency fuel which is about 40 kilometres away."