# Challenges Highlighted in Transition to Electric Vehicles in Australia



In a parliamentary inquiry held in Canberra on Friday, several challenges facing the transition from conventional vehicles to electric vehicles (EVs) in Australia were highlighted. Key issues include soaring insurance premiums, limited access to spare parts, and a shortage of trained mechanics, as emphasized by Christopher Jones, the national president of the Australian Electric Vehicle Association.

Another significant barrier is the ban on charging EVs in some apartment car parks, prompting the association to advocate for a universal "right to charge." The lack of battery health certification is also stalling the development of a second-hand EV market, with many vehicles failing to sell at auctions.

Stuart Charity, CEO of the Australian Automotive Aftermarket Association, noted that only 14% of workshops are currently equipped to service EVs, and a further 24% plan to be within the next year. However, the high cost and lack of training infrastructure remain significant obstacles, particularly in regional areas.

Samuel Marks, head of policy at the National Road Transport Association, pointed out that electric trucks pose additional challenges, being two to three times more expensive to operate than conventional trucks. He emphasized the need for government assistance, including subsidies for hydrogen fuel-cell trucks, and a national strategy for refueling infrastructure.

Overall, experts agree that substantial investment in infrastructure, training, and financial incentives is crucial for a successful transition to electric vehicles in Australia.