

Dear Sir / Madam,

it will take time to "fix the grid". Putting prices to pay for an urgently required upgraded grid is an election killer.

May I propose the following potential solution to buy perhaps ten years of "normalised maintenance and upgrades time" and keep a lid on the expected costs?

Not to mention the benefits if we have blackouts.....

Regards

Rev D 22 July 2025 - Proposal

*Incentivising Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs) for Retired Australians –  
A Strategic Step Toward Grid Resilience and Renewable Integration....*

**Executive Summary**

As Australia continues its transition to clean energy, innovative and immediate solutions are required to bridge the gap between current grid limitations and long-term infrastructure development, including ongoing debates around nuclear energy. One such opportunity lies in incentivising retired Australians—an often-overlooked but critical demographic—to purchase Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs).

With a unique combination of energy-conscious living, suitable driving patterns, and an increasing adoption of residential solar systems, retired households present a powerful and largely untapped resource for grid stabilisation and energy storage. With appropriate incentives, PHEVs can become an essential part of the distributed energy landscape, acting as mobile, flexible batteries capable of feeding electricity back into the grid during peak demand periods.

**Key Supporting Data**

Australia has approximately 9 million standalone or townhouse households with the physical capacity to support rooftop solar.

As of early 2025, 34% of these households have solar panels installed (Clean Energy Council), equating to approximately 3 million solar-enabled homes.

There are 4 million retired Australians (ABS, June 2022), many of whom live in solar-equipped households.

A conservative estimate suggests that 500,000 retired households both have rooftop solar and the lifestyle suited to integrating a PHEV.

Retired Australians typically drive less during peak load periods, leaving PHEVs available to discharge electricity before 9:00 AM and after 5:00 PM, aligning perfectly with peak grid demand times.

A PHEV with a 25 kWh battery vastly exceeds the capacity of most residential home batteries, yet is subject to fewer regulatory constraints.

**Policy Proposal**

We need targeted incentives for retired Australians to purchase PHEVs, including:

- . Upfront subsidies or tax rebates for PHEV purchases for retirees with rooftop solar systems.

. Grid integration support, such as discounted bi-directional chargers and technical assistance for Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) installations.

. Feed-in tariffs or financial credits for energy exported back to the grid during peak periods.

. Public awareness campaigns tailored to retirees, highlighting both the environmental and financial benefits of PHEVs and energy sharing.

. Consideration of a Government guarantee for the PHEV battery *may also* be required as this additional grid usage is outside of any of the current manufacturers standard warranty conditions.

## **Benefits**

**Grid Stability:** With 500,000 PHEVs potentially supplying up to 15 kWh each, that's a theoretical 7 GWh of distributed, mobile battery storage available daily—without building a single new power plant.

**Reduced Peak Demand:** Retired households are well-positioned to contribute to load balancing, helping avoid blackouts and reduce reliance on fossil fuel-based peaking generators.

**Cost-Effective Bridge Strategy:** While Australia debates long-term nuclear energy, PHEVs provide an immediate and scalable clean energy buffer.

**Improved Retirement Security:** Retirees benefit from energy independence, reduced fuel costs, and potential income from grid contributions.

**Accelerated EV Adoption:** Incentivising this demographic accelerates the overall transition to cleaner transport.

## **Conclusion**

Incentivising retired Australians to adopt PHEVs leverages existing infrastructure (solar panels), minimises lifestyle disruption, and maximises grid resilience. This strategy empowers a willing and capable demographic to actively participate in Australia's energy transition, providing a practical and immediate solution while broader national energy debates unfold.

We urge the EV Industry and Government to consider this cost-effective, low-risk initiative as part of a broader push toward sustainable, distributed energy systems.

Prepared by [REDACTED]

NOTE: (Some information presented above is based on estimates. Data therefore may be subject to further amendments.)