

# Towards Cleaner Vehicles on Our Roads

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## Green Paper - June 2021



The Gozo Business Chamber's Feedback to the Green paper

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**THE GOZO BUSINESS CHAMBER**

## **1. The Gozo Business Chamber's feedback**

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The Chamber welcomes positively the Green Paper and agrees that in order to increase the uptake of electric vehicles there needs to be an increase in public charging points, and also schemes targeting the installation of charging points in private garages. Points on streets, car parks and places of work should also be made available.

Public charging points should also have easy and quick payment methods preferably through electronic and card payments.

Given the references in other documents outlining Government's plans to make Gozo a carbon neutral island prior to Malta one should ensure a distributed network of public charging points across the island. One of the main places where these should be present is the city of Victoria. Presently, there is not an adequate parking space in Victoria. Proposals are being put forward for the construction of a multi storey underground car park. If this materialises an adequate number of charging points should be available there. The construction of an underground multistorey car park should help to reduce the congestion in Victoria, and also the emission from vehicles. A system of small electric vehicles to accompany persons to various places in Victoria could be operated from there.

The Government is also presently working on a park and ride facility which should operate from the outskirts of Nadur to Mġarr. Similarly to the proposal above, there should be enough charging points in this facility.

In relation to the Government's focus to make Gozo carbon neutral prior to Malta one should consider better incentives for Gozitan residents to buy electric vehicles, together with reduced ferry tickets for those visiting Gozo using this type of transport. Gozo would thus be set as a best practice example eventually encouraging the uptake of electric vehicles across the whole nation.

Given that a substantial number of people from the main island of Malta travel to Gozo every week because they have a second residence, the deployment of electric vehicles across Malta and Gozo would also depend on people having the assurance that they will find qualified technicians in Gozo which would assist them if something happens to their electric vehicles.

Given the small scale of the Gozitan market it is important to ensure that there are also a number of qualified technicians on the island by introducing further incentives, and promoting easier access to training opportunities.

As regards the cut-off date this should be determined after ensuring the preparedness of the sector. With respect to the changing of commercial fleets to electric, the grants currently operated by the Government may not be ideal given the limitations being imposed by the De Minimis State Aid framework. Though being operated also under the De Minimis Framework the present energy loans currently being operated by the two of the main commercial banks on the island should offer a better solution.

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