



MEDIA RELEASE

Fast charging fears overblown as new data shows minimal impact on EV battery health

4 February 2026: One of the biggest concerns holding Australians back from buying an electric vehicle – that frequent fast charging will significantly degrade the battery – has been largely debunked by new data from Pickles' latest Quarterly Automotive Report.

After analysing battery performance across more than 800 electric vehicles, Pickles found that even heavy reliance on DC fast charging resulted in less than a two per cent difference in battery State of Health when compared with vehicles charged primarily via AC.

Across Pickles' broader EV testing program, which now spans more than 1,500 vehicles, average battery health remains above 96 per cent, reinforcing growing confidence in the durability of modern EV batteries.

"Fast charging has long been seen as a risk factor, particularly for buyers without access to home charging," says Brendon Green, General Manager – Automotive Solutions at Pickles.

"What the data clearly shows is that modern EV batteries are far more resilient than many people assume – even when DC charging forms a significant part of daily use."

The analysis compared vehicles with minimal DC fast charging against those where 90-100 per cent of charging was conducted via DC, finding the difference in battery health to be marginal. Among vehicles aged two-to-four years with moderate to high kilometres, the gap remained consistently below two per cent.

These findings arrive as Australia's public charging network continues to expand, making fast charging an increasingly important part of everyday EV ownership – particularly for apartment dwellers and metropolitan drivers.

"This removes a major psychological barrier to EV adoption. Drivers who rely on public charging infrastructure can participate in the used EV market with far greater confidence," says Green.

The report also highlights that Australia's climate may be contributing to stronger battery outcomes locally, with most capital cities offering conditions that minimise the extreme heat or cold known to accelerate battery degradation in overseas markets.

About the Pickles Quarterly Automotive Report – Issue 8

Issue 8 of the Pickles Quarterly Automotive Report draws on Pickles' national sales data and proprietary EV battery testing program to provide market intelligence for buyers, sellers, fleet operators and industry stakeholders.

This issue also explores:

- **Why seasonal pricing patterns have firmly returned to the used vehicle market** – and what that means for early 2026.
- **The moment heavy transport electrification shifts gears**, as EV and hybrid trucks move beyond trials into real fleet planning.
- **How Australia's climate may be giving local EVs a global battery advantage**, supporting stronger long-term State of Health.
- **Why salvage activity surged in 2025**, and how severe weather and EV growth are reshaping recovery outcomes and buyer demand.

Pickles' Quarterly Automotive Report – Issue 8 is available to download at pickles.com.au/QAR.

-ends-

ABOUT PICKLES

Pickles is Australia's leading marketplace for used motor vehicles, industrial, mining, oil & gas, construction, salvage assets, and general goods, offering thousands of quality items across hundreds of monthly, online auctions. With more than 60 years' experience selling on behalf of trusted vendors including government departments, major financial institutions, fleet, lease, and insurance companies, and major corporate businesses, Pickles offers customers value, flexibility, and convenience.

For further information or to organise an interview, please contact:
Kelly Drew: 0418 486 959 / kelly.drew@stratcollective.com.au