

## News Release

### **Better Place Australia announces Canberra as starting point of national roll-out of electric vehicle recharge network**

**Canberra, Australia 24 July 2009:** Better Place Australia, the leading electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure and services provider today announced that it has chosen the nation's capital, Canberra, as the site of its first city-wide roll-out of electric vehicle infrastructure in Australia.

The decision was announced by Better Place founder and Chief Executive Officer, Shai Agassi, with Evan Thornley, head of Better Place Australia and ActewAGL Chief Executive Officer, Michael Costello, the ACT's electricity retailer and distributor.

"Canberra is a great city to start deploying our vision of zero-emissions mobility. Canberra has a mobile population that demands a viable alternative to allow for both short commutes and longer trips" said Mr Agassi. "There's proven demand for EVs in Australia and the people of Canberra are ready for a more sustainable future. That future is electric."

The initial roll out will involve an investment by Better Place, which will go towards building out the infrastructure, services and systems to support the first several hundred electric vehicles in Canberra. The investment will cover:

- safe and completely recyclable lithium-ion batteries that will power the electric vehicles and be provided as part of the service to drivers, reducing the up-front costs of purchasing an electric vehicle;
- charge spots in homes, offices, shopping centres and other car parks where drivers can plug in to keep their battery fully charged; and
- "Battery Switch Stations" where motorists can simply drive in and have a depleted battery automatically exchanged for a fresh, fully charged one.

"We aim to start construction on our charge spots and battery swap stations in 2011 and start supporting customers in 2012" said Mr Thornley. "From Canberra we will then begin to roll out across the whole country."

Better Place will work closely with ActewAGL to plan the infrastructure deployment. "A significant influence on our decision to choose Canberra was the enthusiasm and support we have received from Michael Costello and his team at ActewAGL" said Evan Thornley, Chief Executive Officer of Better Place Australia.

ActewAGL will be responsible for sourcing and distributing the renewable energy that Better Place will use to power its electric vehicles within the ACT. "It's important that we work together closely so that we can be sure we have the right levels of power available in the car parks and similar locations where the electric vehicles will be charging" said ActewAGL Chief Executive Officer, Michael Costello. "But this is a great opportunity for Canberra to make a huge dent on its greenhouse gas emissions, so we're very keen to co-operate to help make it a reality."

For further information on Better Place's plans for Australia please visit [www.betterplace.com](http://www.betterplace.com).

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#### **About Better Place:**

Better Place, the leading electric vehicle services provider, is accelerating the global transition to sustainable transportation. Better Place is building the infrastructure and intelligent network to deliver a range of services to drivers, enable widespread adoption of electric vehicles, and optimize energy use. The Better Place network addresses historical limitations to adoption by providing unlimited driving range in a convenient and accessible



manner. The company works with all parts of the transportation ecosystem, including automakers, battery suppliers, energy companies, and the public sector, to create a compelling solution. Based in California and privately held, Better Place has operating companies in Israel, Denmark, and Australia. More information is available at <http://www.betterplace.com>.

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