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MEDIA RELEASE

COONAMBLE SHIRE TRIALS ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Coonamble Shire Council joins the Far North West Electric Vehicle Trial this week, taking delivery of two electric vehicles for testing over the next three weeks.

Residents may see one of the two Kia EV5 Air Long Range SUVs around the Shire. With a manufacturer's claim that these SUVs have a range of 555km, Council will be testing to see whether these vehicles meet these expectations.

Acting General Manager, Bruce Quarmby, said Council is always looking at ways to extend value delivery from each ratepayer dollar, and this trial will give an indication of savings that could be made in shifting from some petrol and diesel-fuelled vehicles in Council's fleet to electric vehicles.

The Far North West Joint Organisation of Council's is investigating how electric vehicles can help reduce energy and greenhouse gas emissions across its member-Councils' operations.

The project is part of the Joint Organisations' Net Zero Acceleration project, funded by the Federal Government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

Following the three-week trial in Coonamble, the vehicles will be moved on to the other Councils participating in the project over the next three months, namely Walgett, Bourke and Cobar Shire Councils.

Mr Quarmby said the trial is one component of the work Council has been doing to identify opportunities to reduce energy consumption and costs.

"We recently had an energy expert conduct energy audits at the top energy-consuming sites across Council as part of the this project.

"The results will help us identify the most appropriate options for reducing energy consumption and improving energy efficiency at many of our council sites," he said.

Bruce Quarmby
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER