



# The WA EV Network: Synergy and Horizon Power

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At around 7000 kilometres the WA EV Network is Australia's, and possibly the world's, longest EV network.

Designed to combat range anxiety in Australia's largest state, the network will give EV drivers access to 98 charging stations across 49 locations, from Eucla at the South Australian border to Kununurra in the far north of Western Australia.

The initiative is part of the State Government's Electric Vehicle Action Plan which includes a \$43.5 million investment to boost EV uptake in WA, supporting the State's transition towards net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Synergy and Horizon Power are working with the WA Government to achieve this goal.

In WA, Synergy looks after Perth metro and its immediate vicinity, while Horizon Power is the WA regional energy provider servicing the rest of the state, Dan Healy, Project Manager at Horizon Power, said the project will result in each charger being located less than 200 kilometres apart, ensuring

EV drivers can explore the State without any range anxiety.

“The chargers are all DC fast chargers, ranging in speed from 50 to 150 kilowatts, depending on the area” he said. A project of this size and complexity requires a substantial charging station management system.

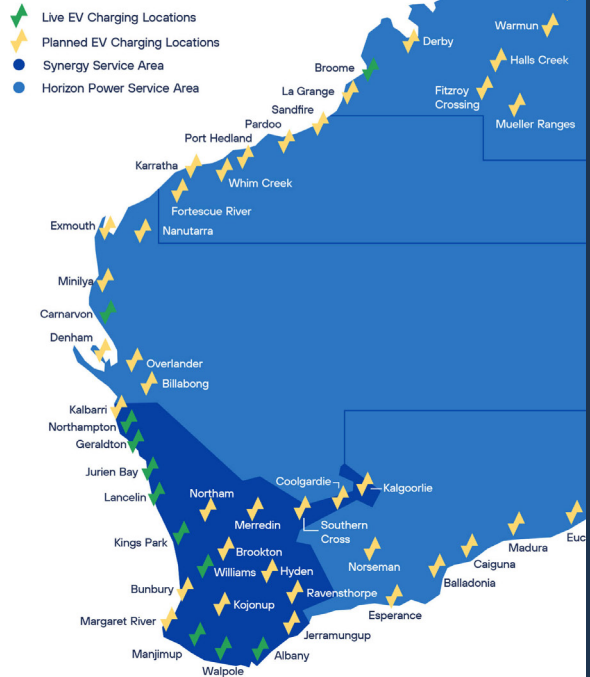
Senior Project Manager Guy McHugh was involved in the competitive tender for the management system to support the Synergy EV Network.

“Chargefox's proposal underwent evaluation based on various criteria, including their expertise and capability. Being the largest provider of this type of platform in Australia, their experience and market size were key factors in the evaluation, and ultimately their success,” he said.

“Establishing EV networks is a rapidly growing market, and Chargefox's status as one of the pioneers in the industry has equipped them with valuable insights into the challenges that Synergy could encounter during the deployment and administration of this network.”

# Western Australia Electric Vehicle Charger Map

Intended charging station locations for the State Government's EV charging network.



*Courtesy of Synergy. Correct as of Nov 2023.*

Mr Healy said Horizon Power and Synergy had been rolling out charging stations with Chargefox for most of 2023.

"Horizon Power's customers are spread out across 2.3 million square kilometres, which is the largest geographical catchment of any Australian power provider.

"Our service area covers some of the most remote parts of the state and this brings with it unique challenges which require innovative solutions."

"We've been very happy with the level of support offered by Chargefox.

"One of the biggest advantages is their 24-hour service. This is really important so EV drivers can get support at any of our chargers, at any time of the day or night, when they are charging their cars."

"It's a great comfort knowing Chargefox is there providing that level of support."

Mr Healy said one of the project's key design elements was to ensure a seamless customer experience, which meant changing as little as possible for the existing EV users.

"Pretty much all EV users in WA use Chargefox; it just didn't make sense to go and download another app and start again."

Mr McHugh said working with Chargefox on the project was a positive experience.

"Chargefox has demonstrated a strong commitment to the project's success, and their team has shown expertise in the field. Communication has been effective and their collaborative approach has facilitated a smooth workflow," he said.

"Overall, it has been a valuable partnership and we look forward to continued success in our collaboration with Chargefox."

"The increasing adoption of EVs is expected to drive the growth of EV charging systems.

"The successful delivery of the current WA EV Network management software by Chargefox will strengthen Synergy's commitment to a long-term partnership."

The WA EV Network is due to be completed in mid-2024.

As part of the project, Horizon Power is installing EV fast chargers at 27 locations across regional and remote WA.

Horizon Power charging stations are already operational in Broome, Carnarvon, Exmouth and Karratha.

Fast chargers are also due to come online before the end of the year in Esperance, Warmun, Derby and Halls Creek.

With Chargefox's support, WA is looking towards a cleaner, greener electric vehicle future.



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