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**Media release**

**The Warehouse Group welcomes Government's intent to increase New Zealand's EV uptake.**

The Warehouse Group (TWG) has committed to transitioning 30% of its vehicle fleet to EV by the end of this year and is well ahead of schedule with over 70 EVs being deployed in the coming months.

TWG Chief Sustainability Officer David Benattar says EVs are needed in New Zealand, and anything the Government can do to make them more accessible is applauded.

“With the introduction of a rebate scheme and organisations incorporating EVs into their fleets, the second hand EV market will grow and allow the cars to become increasingly affordable for all Kiwis.

“In countries such as Norway, the UK and China, the pace of EV purchases has picked up significantly since introducing rebate schemes. China is now leading the world with EV, and global market shares of EV rose to 2.1% in 2018.

“Moving to an EV isn't just a technology change, it's a behaviour change, too, and if a rebate can help motivate that change, our environment will quickly see the benefits,” said Benattar.

Since confirming its EV commitment, The Warehouse Group has spent considerable time and resources researching and purchasing EV vehicles.

David Benattar said he is pleased that the Government is looking to address the expense and complexity of transitioning to an EV fleet.

“We know it can be tough and we'd love to see the process made easier so that all companies and individuals who would like an EV can get access to one.

In addition to its fleet, TWG has invested in EV chargers with 24 chargers around the country at The Warehouse stores.

“We know one of the barriers to EVs is the charging station infrastructure, which is why we are working on building and expanding that in parallel with our own fleet,” said Benattar. “We see this as part of our commitment to being Here for good, but we also know it makes good commercial sense, especially for younger consumers who are voicing their expectations to see large companies like ours take the lead and use every available way to combat climate change. “

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For more information, please contact our Corporate Communications team:

[media.enquiries@thewarehousegroup.co.nz](mailto:media.enquiries@thewarehousegroup.co.nz)

**About The Warehouse Group:**

The Warehouse Group Limited comprises 93 The Warehouse stores, 64 Warehouse Stationery stores, 79 Noel Leeming stores, and 10 Torpedo7 stores in New Zealand, several online retailers and Store Support Office with over 1200 team members. For over 30 years our people, our customers, our communities and the environment have been at the heart of our business with the goal of helping New Zealand flourish. Our Team Members know that when they work for The Warehouse Group they are making a difference in their local communities and New Zealand through our Community and Environment initiatives. The company had turnover of \$3 billion in FY17 and employs over 12,000 people. To find out more, visit [www.thewarehousegroup.co.nz](http://www.thewarehousegroup.co.nz)