

MEDIA RELEASE

19 January 2017

AUT to get New Zealand's first 100% electric bus

The viability of large electric vehicles (EVs) as replacements for current diesel buses is to be tested with a project that will see New Zealand's first 100% electric bus on New Zealand's roads.

Through the jointly funded project with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) and [Tranzit Group](#), AUT will add the 38 seat, plus standing, passenger bus to its fleet of shuttles operating between the university's three Auckland campuses.

AUT Vice-Chancellor, Derek McCormack said today's global announcement that [2016 is the hottest year on record](#) brings into focus the need to find more ways to address the human contribution to climate change.

"Putting a single electric bus on the road might be a humble step, but it signals AUT's willingness to embrace technology, and work in partnership to help find solutions to the challenges faced by our city and beyond," he said.

Discussions about building the bus are underway and it is hoped to have it in service in the first half of 2017. It is likely that the chassis and EV components will be built in China and the body will be built in New Zealand.

The project was announced today by Minister of Energy and Resources, Hon Judith Collins, as part of [EECA's Low Emission Vehicle Contestable Fund](#) which aims to help accelerate the uptake of electric vehicles, helping to transform our fleet and reduce carbon emissions from road transport.



The trial will make it possible for AUT and Tranzit to study the battery technology and determine what infrastructure and expertise is required to run a large EV urban bus fleet in New Zealand.

"With significant investment in NZ urban bus fleets occurring, AUT and Tranzit findings will be shared with the transport industry in the hope that the uptake of large EVs in New Zealand is seen as a viable replacement to current diesel buses," said Tranzit Group's Managing Director, Paul Snelgrove.

Building and operating the electric powered bus is in line with several of [AUT's sustainability goals](#) including those that cover demonstrating leadership, research and partnership, and operations.

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