

For Immediate Release
3rd August 2018**Wattblock completes Electric Vehicle Recharging in Residential Strata Buildings project with City of Sydney grant funding***Project to understand and assist residential apartment buildings tackle electric vehicle charging issues*

SYDNEY, NSW, Australia — **3rd August 2018**—Wattblock is an Australian technology startup which has received investment from muru-D as part of Telstra’s startup accelerator program. In March 2017 City of Sydney awarded \$20,000 innovation grant* funding to Wattblock to undertake their Electric Vehicle Recharging in Residential Strata Buildings project with in-kind contributions from Evercharge, AGL and Tesla.

The project examined current Electric Vehicle (EV) charging solutions for residential strata, different commercial models, strata by-laws, and government incentive programs to promote uptake. In addition, the final report covers research looking at how utility companies can play a role in avoiding localised power outages due to “EV clustering” and the impact of EV charging Demand Management (DM) solutions.

As part of the project 20 residential apartment buildings (3,317 apartments) were engaged to receive an electric vehicle assessment report for their building. Participant buildings were selected to cover a cross section of building size, demographics, and representation across different suburbs within the City of Sydney. Wattblock also ran a resident survey to gauge attitudes and intentions of residents toward electric vehicles and charging facilities. The survey has been extended with 131 strata schemes to date from the broader Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast.

Wattblock project director and founder, Ross McIntyre said “Overwhelmingly 81% of survey respondents in the City of Sydney were in favour of installing electric vehicle charging facilities”. Findings from the project include:

- 48% of respondents plan to have an electric vehicle within the next 5 years
- The majority want a user pays charging system (79%) on individual car spaces (61%)
- Most buildings will require integration with the common area power supply (eg lifts, carpark, foyers, facilities)
- Power management systems will be needed to shift EV charging loads overnight
- Energy efficiency and renewable energy projects can increase capacity
- By-laws are needed to manage electric vehicle charger installation and usage
- For the 20 participant buildings investment to provide full access to EV charging has a 2.9 year payback
- New developments are starting to market their buildings as “EV Ready” to attract premium values

Lord Mayor Clover Moore said the City of Sydney is proud to support Wattblock prepare for a future where more people living in apartments will need to charge their electric vehicles.

“Wattblock’s research is a great example of the type of projects our environmental grants program is designed to support. Their insights will guide conversations about the infrastructure required in order to cope with more electric vehicles in our city.”

The full Electric Vehicle Recharging in Residential Strata Buildings project report can be [downloaded online](#). The project report includes a high level decision tree diagram and checklists that can be further used to assist strata in working through the issues. The report covers issues

such as how to bill owners for charging, which location is the best, how to set it up, types of charging equipment, and risks around overloading the common area power supply. The report also provides some analysis around the location and impact of public charging stations as well as the carbon impact with the deployment of electric vehicles.

Wattblock is calling for further participants in their national resident survey. Running a survey is a logical starting point for understanding intentions and attitudes toward electric vehicles. Strata schemes can contact Wattblock to register and set up the survey for their residents. The broader results will be used to assist local councils in planning for electric vehicle charging.

Wattblock was founded by Brent Clark and Ross McIntyre in 2014 to reduce energy waste in multi-tenant residential buildings. They have assisted over 1,000 strata buildings across Australia with energy saving reports. Wattblock is located in the Michael Crouch Innovation Centre at UNSW and has been able to draw on a pool of talented academic staff and students from multiple faculties. Wattblock has developed a simple one page EV charging summary report which is now integrated within its low cost sustainability reporting service. The effectiveness of Wattblock's approach to sustainability assessments was previously demonstrated in a prior City of Sydney research paper.

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**Note: The City's Environmental Performance Innovation Grant program supports feasibility and demonstration projects that test or demonstrate new technologies and processes that are not currently implemented in the local market, but have the potential to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions and resource efficiencies at scale within the City of Sydney Local Government Area. Grant funding supports the City's work towards the environmental performance targets included in its community strategic plan Sustainable Sydney 2030.*