

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025

THE ~~2024~~ AGE

DRIVE

New Car Roadmap

All the new cars. All the new brands.

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BUYER'S GUIDE

The changing face of the new car market

By Rob Margeit

The Australian new car market of 2025 is very different to what it was just 20 years ago. Dual-cab utes and SUVs dominate the new car sales charts while the proliferation of electric vehicles is a theme that continues to dominate discussions.

Last year, Australians bought new cars in record numbers, with 1,237,287 new vehicles finding homes, according to data from the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries (FCAI).

Leading the way was the Ford Ranger dual-cab ute, which, for the second year in a row, was the number one selling vehicle of any kind in Australia. It beat the Toyota RAV4, a mid-sized SUV, and another dual-cab ute, the Toyota HiLux.

Just one 'traditional' passenger car made the list of top 10 best sellers in 2024 – Toyota's Corolla small car came in at number seven on a list that was dominated by utes and SUVs.

Toyota remained the number one brand in Australia. It had 241,296 new car sales in 2024 – over twice as many as Ford in second place and relegating Mazda to third.

Sales of electric vehicles continued to grow, up 4.7 per cent over the previous year.

Data published by the FCAI and Electric Vehicle Council (EVC) reported 91,292 electric passenger cars, SUVs, and light-commercial vehicles sold in 2024, which was 7.4 per cent of the total new car market.

Tesla continued to lead the way, with its 38,347 sales accounting for 42 per cent of the EV market. However, that number is down significantly from 2023, when the American carmaker sold 46,116 new EVs and accounted for around 53 per cent of the total EV market.

The decline of Tesla coincides with an influx of new models from other brands. Chinese brand BYD, which is the world's second-largest seller of EVs, reported a 14.6 per cent increase year-on-year on the back of 14,260 sales.

Hybrids have also flourished. In 2024, Australians bought more regular hybrids than ever before, with 172,696 reported as sold, according to the FCAI.

Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) also enjoyed their time in the sun, doubling in sales volume year-on-year with 23,163



BYD sold 2000 of its pioneering Shark plug-in hybrid dual-cab utes in February alone – which was unthinkable 20 years ago.

sold. However, that sales surge came off the back of some government incentives which ended on April 1, so it will be interesting to see if PHEVs can maintain their momentum.

Underscoring how much the new car landscape has changed over the past 20 years, a look back at 2004 and the cars we were buying tells an interesting story.

With just under a million (955,229) sold, 2004 was a record year for the new car market. But it's what Australians were buying that demonstrates just how much our buying habits have changed.

The number one selling car in 2004 was the venerable Holden Commodore (79,170) ahead of arch-rival Ford Falcon, with the Toyota Camry in third place.

Two more Toyotas occupied fourth (Corolla) and fifth (HiLux) places, with a trio of Holdens (Astra, Rodeo and Holden ute) next ahead of the Mazda 3 in ninth.

Rounding out the top 10 with sales of just over 20,000 was the Ford Falcon ute.

Interestingly, there were no SUVs inside the top 10, the mix made up of large sedans, medium sedans, small hatchbacks, two car-based utes and two traditional workhorse dual-cab utes (HiLux and Rodeo).

Certainly, the signs of the coming SUV storm were already there, with total sales across all SUV segments running to 173,097, an increase of almost 15 per cent over the previous year. For the record, Australia's most popular SUV in 2004 was the Toyota LandCruiser Prado with sales of 16,758.

Today, SUVs account for 57 per cent of the new car market to dominate the landscape alongside dual-cab utes, which are being embraced as lifestyle-focused family vehicles.

In 2004, we bought a total of 137,990 dual-cab utes. That number has grown

dramatically over the last 20 years, with total sales in 2024 of 239,830.

And hybrids? Their numbers were so small, they didn't have their own category. How small? Toyota sold just 1094 of its Prius, the only hybrid available.

Today, hybrids are more than just a buzz word, with manufacturers scrambling to add the fuel-saving and emissions-reducing technology to their line-ups.

And it's not just cars and SUVs benefiting from the increased demand – even the dual-cab segment is beginning to transition to hybrid technology.

Ford has already confirmed the Ford Ranger hybrid will be available later this year, while Chinese giant BYD released the Shark, a plug-in hybrid dual-cab ute, late in 2024. In February alone, BYD reported over 2000 sales of the pioneering ute. That would have seemed unthinkable 20 years ago.

EDITORIAL

The road ahead

By James Ward

Could this be the most exciting time to be a new car buyer in Australia? Nothing is the same as it was last year, or even last week, and with the influx of more technology, efficiency and ultimately, more choice, the ball is very firmly in the buyer's court.

The Australian new car market has always been diverse, but it has never been more so. The least complicated time to buy a new car was in 1986 and 1987 when just 35 brands – including Daimler, Lada and Saab – were among the showroom choices available to consumers.

Today we have close to double that number and double the choice, with 69 brands confirmed to be in market this year, and even more putting the final touches on



the press release to indicate a commencement of sales in Australia.

And yes, the influx of new choice is coming from one place: China.

Of the 69 brands hailing from 12 nations confirmed to be on sale in 2025, nearly one third (29 per cent) are Chinese. And to be clear, this doesn't account for international

brands like Lotus (England) and Polestar (Sweden) that are Chinese owned.

For context, back in the simpler '35-brand' days of the mid-1980s, there were still 10 countries on the board (including the now defunct USSR), with an equal majority of 23 per cent car brands calling Japan and England home.

The current climate isn't unprecedented – in 1960 almost half the 41 badges on boots came from England – but the speed of change is.

In the past five years, the brand choice for new car buyers has increased by 33 per cent (52 brands to 69 brands), and it's still climbing. This may make understanding the new car market a bit more of a challenge, but the good news for consumers is that it makes it more competitive, which means your car-buying dollar goes further than ever before.

Long warranties of seven years and over are becoming normal. And the amount of technology, safety and efficiency wrapped into all new cars is astounding.

This is a fantastic age of motoring, as engineers wrap their heads around the possibilities presented by communication and electrification, extending far beyond fuel savings and navigation, to a new era of software-defined vehicles that not only adapt to offer new functionality over time, but also harness the best of what can be done to thoroughly enjoy the drive on the road ahead.

THE INDUSTRY

What price emissions? Big changes coming to the new car market

By Alex Misoyannis

Big shifts are coming to showrooms that could mean your next car will cost more – or become unavailable.

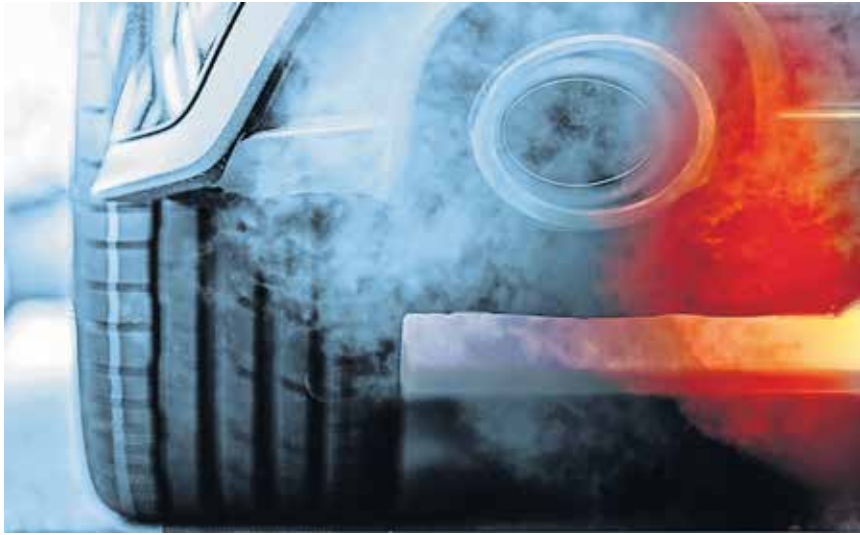
Australia will this year mandate strict emissions rules for new vehicles similar to those in Europe and the US, which will issue fines – or credits – to car manufacturers based on the CO₂ emissions of every new vehicle they sell.

The New Vehicle Efficiency Standard (NVES) – in force from January 1, but set to begin counting vehicle sales from July 1 – will not ban the sale of any type of new vehicle, nor will it apply to used cars.

However, manufacturers must offset sales of “dirtier” new cars – such as utes and off-landers – with the sale of low-emissions cars that meet the rules, which get tougher every year.

Beat the targets across their line-up over a calendar year, and carmakers will earn “credits” they can use to help meet the rules in future years, or sell to other brands having a tougher time.

Fail to meet the targets – adjusted by vehicle weight and type, acknowledging a ute will never be as frugal as a city hatch – and car companies will be fined by the government.



While penalties will be issued directly to the carmaker, they are in business to make money, so leading brands say they’ll need to pass on some of the fines to customers in the form of higher prices in showrooms.

Some brands have already begun axing slow-selling models that won’t help them avoid fines, while others admit they will need to actively limit supply of higher-emissions cars for the same reason.

In the first year of the rules, even

popular diesel utes will earn credits – but come 2029, they turn into “debts” equivalent to fines of as much as \$10,000 on every vehicle sold.

Not all of that will be passed onto the consumer, and the utes on sale at the end of the decade are likely to be more efficient than today’s models.

But multiply that amount by 50,000 or 100,000 sales, and it’s no wonder the NVES has Australia’s top-selling automakers worried.



Today’s NEW is tomorrow’s NUSED

A downstream benefit of a more hotly contested new car market is a more diverse and opportunistic used car one. Nearly all new cars will have a second life in the second-hand market, which can present some great options for those looking for something with all the warranty and technical benefits of a brand new vehicle, but that is in stock and ready to buy today.

Brands like Nissan, MG and Mitsubishi offer decade-long warranties, and seven-year programs have become so prevalent that it’s possible to buy an 18-month old car and still have more warranty left than most new cars were sold with in recent years.

Finding the right near-new car has never been easier with Drive NUSED. Search for thousands of current-model vehicles, still supported by factory warranty, on the Drive NUSED Car Marketplace.

You can quickly filter by price or location to find the right car, close and convenient to you, that you can see, touch and test drive before committing to a deal.

With so many new makes and models about to hit the market, buying a NUSED car has never been a better way to understand what is available, and which car is right for your needs.

To find out more, and start searching for the perfect NUSED car for you and your family, head over to drive.com.au/marketplace today.

DRIVE NUSED™

Nused /nju:zd/
Adjective

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*NUSED™ cars include estimated remaining manufacturer’s warranty, based on the car’s age and kilometres, using information provided to Drive. Please confirm with the selling dealer prior to purchase.



AUSTRALIA'S MOST ANNOYING CAR?

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All-New, All-Electric, **DEEPAL S07 SUV**

For some, the safety features on the DEEPAL S07 were a little overenthusiastic. So we've made a few tweaks to make them less intrusive & more supportive when you actually need them.

With that sorted, let's talk about some of the other features of the innovative DEEPAL S07:

- Augmented Reality Head-Up Display
- 15.6" HD Rotating Centre Touchscreen
- Voice & Intelligent Gesture Recognition Control
- Ventilated front seats
- Floating Sound Island
- 6-way power driver's seat adjustment with lumbar support.



Test drive at your local retailer today or visit deepal.com.au

Your 2025 New Car Roadmap

The new car market in Australia has never been busier.

New brands, new models and plenty of updated and refreshed metal can make life difficult for anyone looking to buy a new car.

Many of the brands are familiar, but there are also plenty of new names trying their luck in the lucrative Australian market for the first time.

Our new car roadmap lists all the cars that have launched from mid-2024 onwards, as well as those confirmed to be arriving in Australia over the next 12 to 18 months.

Not every car on sale is listed, only those that are new or updated.

This is why you'll see a Toyota Camry (new-generation launched in September 2024) but not a Toyota Corolla (current-generation launched in August 2018).

To help navigate the scale of changes, we've noted the 'size' of each vehicle and what to expect from its powertrain.

An **update** is generally a facelift or mechanical refresh within the same generation car, while a **new variant** signifies just an additional trim grade or specification added to the existing showroom lineup.

A **new generation** denotes a fresh, and often 'all-new' version of a car on sale today, whereas a **new model** is something that is entirely new to market.

CAR	SIZE	POWER	TYPE	TIMING
				
Abarth				
Abarth 500e	sports hatch	electric	new variant	NOW

				
Aion				
Chinese car giant GAC Group is targeting being a top 10 brand in Australia within three to five years. It will sell vehicles under two distinct brands - GAC for hybrid and Aion for pure battery electric. The first car to launch locally in Australia is expected to be a mid-size electric SUV, the Aion V, with an electric hatchback, similar in size to the MG 4 and Toyota Corolla, to follow.				
Aion UT	small hatch	electric	new model	late-2025
Aion V	small SUV	electric	new model	late-2025

				
Alfa Romeo				
Alfa Romeo Giulia	medium sedan	petrol	update	NOW
Alfa Romeo Junior	small SUV	electric	new model	late-2025
Alfa Romeo Stelvio	medium SUV	petrol	update	NOW
Alfa Romeo Tonale	small SUV	petrol	update	NOW
Alfa Romeo Tonale PHEV	small SUV	PHEV	new variant	NOW

CAR	SIZE	POWER	TYPE	TIMING
				
Aston Martin				
Aston Martin DB12 Volante	sports convertible	petrol	new variant	NOW
Aston Martin DBX	large SUV	petrol	update	NOW
Aston Martin Vanquish	sports coupe	petrol	new model	NOW
Aston Martin Vantage	sports coupe	petrol	update	NOW

				
Audi				
The German brand is going on a model offensive in 2025, with a huge range of new and updated models set to hit showrooms. The headline act is the Q4 e-tron electric small SUV, while a range of new RS models breathes some life into the performance car segment.				
Audi A1	small hatch	petrol	update	mid-2025
Audi A3	small hatch	petrol	update	mid-2025
Audi A5	medium sedan	petrol	new gen*	mid-2025
Audi A6 e-tron	large sedan / wagon	electric	new model	mid-2025
Audi e-tron GT	sports sedan	electric	update	SOON
Audi Q2	small SUV	petrol	update	mid-2025
Audi Q4 e-tron	small SUV	electric	new model	NOW
Audi Q5	medium SUV	petrol	new gen	Q3 2025
Audi Q6 e-tron	medium SUV	electric	new model	NOW
Audi Q7	large SUV	petrol / diesel	update	mid-2025
Audi RS Q8	large SUV	petrol	update	Q2 2025
Audi RS3	sports hatch	petrol	update	mid-2025
Audi RS4 Competition Plus	sports wagon	petrol	new variant	NOW
Audi RS5 Competition Plus	sports sedan	petrol	new variant	NOW
Audi RS6 GT	sports wagon	petrol	new variant	NOW
Audi S3	sports hatch	petrol	update	mid-2025
Audi S5	medium sedan / wagon	petrol	new gen	mid-2025
Audi S6 e-tron	large sedan / wagon	electric	new model	mid-2025
Audi SQ5	medium SUV	petrol	new gen	Q4 2025
Audi SQ6 e-tron	medium SUV	electric	new model	NOW
Audi SQ7	large SUV	petrol	update	NOW

*new generation

CAR	SIZE	POWER	TYPE	TIMING
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Bentley

Bentley Continental GT Speed	sports coupe	PHEV	new variant	TBC
Bentley Flying Spur Speed	large sedan	PHEV	new variant	mid-2025



BMW

BMW 120	small hatch	petrol	new variant	mid-2025
BMW 2 Series	sports coupe	petrol	update	NOW
BMW 2 Series Gran Coupe	small sedan	petrol	new gen*	NOW
BMW 3 Series	medium sedan	petrol	update	NOW
BMW 4 Series	sports coupe	petrol	update	NOW
BMW 540d	large sedan	diesel	new variant	NOW
BMW i5 M60 Touring	large wagon	electric	new variant	NOW
BMW iX	large SUV	electric	update	mid-2025
BMW iX3	medium SUV	electric	new gen*	2026
BMW M3 CS Touring	medium wagon	petrol	new variant	mid-2025
BMW M5 Touring	large wagon	PHEV	new model	NOW
BMW X3	medium SUV	petrol / hybrid	new gen*	NOW
BMW XM Kith	large SUV	PHEV	new variant	Q3 2025



BYD

BYD, short for Build Your Dreams, is on the precipice of becoming the world's largest maker of electric cars. Certainly, the Chinese brand has had a big impact on the Australian market, last year selling over 20,000 cars locally, almost all of them electric. BYD is a sleeping giant, about to waken from a slumber.

BYD Atto 2	small SUV	electric	new model	late-2025
BYD Atto 3	medium SUV	electric	update	TBC
BYD Dolphin	small hatch	electric	update	TBC
BYD Dolphin Essential	small hatch	electric	new variant	mid-2025
BYD Seal	medium sedan	electric	update	NOW
BYD Sealion 6	medium SUV	PHEV	new model	NOW
BYD Sealion 7	medium SUV	electric	new model	NOW
BYD Shark 6 Premium	ute	PHEV	new model	NOW

CAR	SIZE	POWER	TYPE	TIMING
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Cadillac

After decades of promising to enter the Australian market, the iconic American brand finally made it official late last year. It's been a small step at first, with just a single model, the electric Lyriq large SUV that brings the epitome of American luxury to Australian roads. More models are coming, the earliest likely in 2026.

Cadillac Lyriq	large SUV	electric	new model	NOW
Cadillac Lyriq-V	large SUV	electric	new variant	2026
Cadillac Optiq	medium SUV	electric	new model	2026
Cadillac Vistiq	large SUV	electric	new model	2026



Chery

Cue the 'second bite of the Chery' puns, but it rings true here, the Chinese brand back for a second time after a lacklustre first attempt in 2011. But since returning to the Australian market in 2023, it's become very clear that this is a different Chery to the one that left with its tail between its legs in 2015. Underlining that growth, the Chery Tiggo 4 Pro recently took out a coveted Drive Car of the Year award, winning the Best Urban Car Under \$30,000 category.

Chery Omoda E5	small SUV	electric	new variant	NOW
Chery Tiggo 4 Pro Hybrid	small SUV	hybrid	new variant	mid-2025
Chery Tiggo 7 Pro PHEV	medium SUV	PHEV	new variant	mid-2025
Chery Tiggo 7 Pro SE	medium SUV	petrol	new variant	NOW
Chery Tiggo 8 Pro PHEV	medium SUV	PHEV	new variant	mid-2025
Chery Tiggo 9	large SUV	petrol	new model	mid-2025



Chevrolet

Chevrolet Corvette E-Ray	sports coupe	hybrid	new variant	NOW
Chevrolet Corvette Z06	sports coupe	petrol	new variant	NOW
Chevrolet Silverado	ute	petrol	update	NOW
Chevrolet Silverado HD	ute	diesel	update	NOW

Where in the world?

The home countries of the 69 car brands currently on sale in Australia fly just 12 national flags. Here is the 2025 breakdown.

1 China	20 brands	29%	7 Korea	4 brands	6%
2 England	10 brands	14%	8 France	2 brands	3%
3 Japan	9 brands	13%	9 Sweden	2 brands	3%
4 USA	7 brands	10%	10 Spain	1 brand	1%
5 Germany	6 brands	9%	11 India	1 brand	1%
6 Italy	6 brands	9%	12 Czech Republic	1 brand	1%



CAR	SIZE	POWER	TYPE	TIMING
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Cupra

The performance division of German-owned Spanish brand Seat, Cupra continues to expand its range of cars in Australia, a blend of stylish petrol- and electric-powered cars and SUVs that hit the right notes for buyers looking for something a little different to the mainstream.

Cupra Ateca V	medium SUV	petrol	new variant	NOW
Cupra Born VZ	small hatch	electric	new variant	mid-2025
Cupra Formentor	small SUV	petrol / hybrid	update	late-2025
Cupra Leon	small hatch	petrol / hybrid	update	late-2025
Cupra Leon Sportstourer	small wagon	petrol / hybrid	new model	Q3 2025
Cupra Tavascan	medium SUV	electric	new model	NOW
Cupra Terramar	medium SUV	petrol / hybrid	new model	mid-2025



Deepal

If it seems like every second new car brand in Australia hails from China, then that's not too far from the truth. Another newcomer to our shores, electric carmaker Deepal is taking a slightly unconventional path with models such as the EO7, a blend of SUV and dual-cab ute that, according to the company's local boss, is a "little bit of a Swiss army knife in terms of what it can do". Interesting!

Deepal E07	ute	electric	new model	late-2025
Deepal S05	medium SUV	electric	new model	late-2025
Deepal S07	medium SUV	electric	new model	NOW



Denza

With BYD firmly established in the Australian market, the Chinese electric car giant now has plans to bring in its luxury brand, Denza. Early indications, although still to be confirmed, that the Denza B5, a large plug-in hybrid SUV, will make its way to local dealerships.

Denza B5	large SUV	PHEV	new model	late-2025
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Farizon

Farizon SuperVan	van	electric	new model	NOW
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CAR	SIZE	POWER	TYPE	TIMING
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Ferrari

Ferrari 12Cilindri	sports coupe	petrol	new model	Q2 2025
Ferrari 12Cilindri Spider	sports convertible	petrol	new variant	Q4 2025
Ferrari F80	supercar	PHEV	new model	2026
Ferrari Roma Spider	sports convertible	petrol	new variant	NOW
Ferrari SF90 XX Spider	sports convertible	PHEV	new variant	Q2 2025



Ford

Ford E-Transit Custom	van	electric	new variant	mid-2025
Ford Everest Tremor	large SUV	diesel	new variant	NOW
Ford Everest Wildtrak	large SUV	diesel	new variant	SOON
Ford F150	ute	petrol	update	mid-2025
Ford Mustang	sports coupe	petrol	update	NOW
Ford Mustang Mach-E	large SUV	electric	update	late-2025
Ford Ranger PHEV	ute	PHEV	new variant	mid-2025
Ford Ranger Super Duty	ute	diesel	new variant	2026
Ford Ranger Wildtrak X	ute	diesel	new variant	SOON
Ford Tourneo	people mover	diesel	new model	NOW
Ford Transit Custom PHEV	van	PHEV	new variant	Q3 2025

**Foton**

Another revitalised brand, Foton is set to return to Australia in 2025 with a pair of rugged dual-cab utes, tapping into the Australian motoring zeitgeist. Foton last plied its trade locally with the Tunland range of utes from 2012-2020. The Tunland name returns, but this time around its targeting buyers of popular dual-cabs like the Ford Ranger and Toyota HiLux as well as bigger American-style pick-up trucks such as the Ford F-150.

Foton Tunland V7	ute	diesel	new model	mid-2025
Foton Tunland V9	ute	diesel	new model	mid-2025

*new generation

A Game of Brands

If you think the fictional fantasy world of Westeros was a complicated ecosystem of families, groups and alliances, the automotive industry is a whole new level. Very few brands operate outside a larger corporate umbrella. The automotive world is made up of a number of groups that share development and engineering across multiple brands. Here are four of the biggest.

Geely Automotive: Farizon, Geely, Lotus, Lynk & Co, Polestar, Radar, Smart, Volvo, Zeekr.

Volkswagen Group: Audi, Bentley, Cupra, Ducati, Porsche, Scout, Seat, Skoda, Volkswagen.

SAIC: IM, LDV, Maxus, MG, Rising Auto, Roewe, Wuling.

Stellantis: Abarth, Alfa Romeo, Chrysler, Citroen, Dodge, DS Automobiles, Fiat, Jeep, Lancia, Maserati, Opel, Peugeot, Ram Trucks, Vauxhall

CAR

SIZE

POWER

TYPE

TIMING



Geely

Geely EX5	medium SUV	electric	new model	NOW
Geely Riddara	ute	electric	new model	TBC
Geely Starship 7	medium SUV	PHEV	new model	late-2025



Genesis

Genesis G80 Black	large sedan	petrol	new variant	TBC
Genesis G80 Electrified	large sedan	electric	update	Q2 2025
Genesis GV60	medium SUV	electric	update	Q3 2025
Genesis GV60 Magma	medium SUV	electric	new variant	2026
Genesis GV70 Electrified	medium SUV	electric	update	Q2 2025
Genesis GV80 Coupe	large SUV	petrol	update	NOW
Genesis GV80 Wagon	large SUV	petrol	update	NOW



GMC

GMC Yukon Denali	large SUV	petrol	new model	Q2 2025
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The greatest show in town

This weekend sees the return of a proper, big brands, big stands motor show in Melbourne for the first time since 2011.

Held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on April 5 and 6, the 2025 Melbourne Motor Show allows those interested in, or in the market for, a new car the chance to get up close to a huge selection of new vehicles.

Over 20 key manufacturers, along with aftermarket and motorsport providers will be in attendance. The show is headlined by a number of global new model reveals as well as the first time some exciting new cars will be seen in the metal by Australians.

“It feels incredible to sell out all the floor space reserved for the event well in advance,” says managing director Craig Phinn. “We cannot wait to bring you the best and biggest motoring expo in Australian automotive history.”

CAR

SIZE

POWER

TYPE

TIMING



GWM

GWM Cannon	ute	diesel	update	NOW
GWM Cannon Alpha PHEV	ute	PHEV	new variant	Q2 2025
GWM Haval H6	medium SUV	petrol / hybrid	update	Q2 2025
GWM Haval H6 GT PHEV	medium SUV	PHEV	new variant	NOW
GWM Haval H6 PHEV	medium SUV	PHEV	new variant	Q4 2025
GWM Haval H7	medium SUV	petrol	new model	Q3 2025
GWM Haval Jolion	small SUV	petrol / hybrid	update	NOW
GWM Tank 300 Diesel	large SUV	diesel	new variant	NOW
GWM Tank 500 PHEV	large SUV	PHEV	new variant	Q4 2025



Honda

Honda HR-V	small SUV	petrol / hybrid	update	NOW
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Hyundai

Hyundai i20 N	sports hatch	petrol	update	NOW
Hyundai i30	small hatch	petrol / hybrid	update	NOW
Hyundai Inster	small SUV	electric	new model	Q2 2025
Hyundai Ioniq 6	medium sedan	electric	update	TBC
Hyundai Ioniq 6 N	sports sedan	electric	new variant	2026
Hyundai Ioniq 9	large SUV	electric	new model	Q3 2025
Hyundai Palisade	large SUV	petrol / hybrid	update	Q3 2025
Hyundai Santa Fe	large SUV	petrol / hybrid	new gen*	NOW



IM

IM is a luxury vehicle offshoot of MG that exclusively produces electric cars. The Chinese brand is set to launch the L6 sedan and LS6 SUV in Australia later this year as a further step toward a premium product portfolio, following the 2024 launch of the MG Cyberster electric roadster. IM is said to stand for 'Intelligence in Motion'.

IM L6	medium sedan	electric	new model	TBC
IM LS6	medium SUV	electric	new model	TBC

*new generation

CAR	SIZE	POWER	TYPE	TIMING
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Ineos

Ineos Grenadier Quatermaster	ute	diesel	new model	NOW
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CAR	SIZE	POWER	TYPE	TIMING
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JAC

JAC T9	ute	diesel	new model	NOW
JAC T9 PHEV	ute	PHEV	new variant	late-2025



Isuzu

Isuzu Ute D-Max Blade	ute	diesel	new variant	NOW
Isuzu Ute D-Max Electric	ute	electric	new variant	TBC
Isuzu Ute MU-X	large SUV	diesel	update	NOW

Testing times

Not only are the world's carmakers looking to Australia to sell cars, but many also undertake testing and development here.

Australia offers close geographical access to manufacturers in China and South-East Asia, and with a landscape as diverse as the car market, development testing can offer a vast range of terrain and climate variance which is important for cars not only destined for local showrooms but those around the world.

Brands will use disguised prototype vehicles, often covering them with unique camouflage pattern wraps that help hide how the production model will look as well as confusing the focus sensors on modern digital cameras.

PICTURE: CRAIG CHAPMAN

The award-winning SANTA FE Hybrid.

Drive Car of the Year.
Best Large SUV Under \$80k.

DRIVE
CAR OF THE YEAR 2025

OVERALL
WINNER
&
BEST LARGE SUV
UNDER \$80K



Explore the award-winning range at
Hyundai.com.au



CAR	SIZE	POWER	TYPE	TIMING
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Jaecoo

Jaecoo, a more premium off-shoot of Chinese brand Chery, has arrived in Australia with a trio of SUVs and an eight-year/unlimited kilometre warranty, among the best in the local new car market.

Jaecoo J5	small SUV	petrol	new model	TBC
Jaecoo J7	medium SUV	petrol	new model	NOW
Jaecoo J7 PHEV	medium SUV	PHEV	new variant	NOW
Jaecoo J8	large SUV	petrol	new model	mid-2025



Jaguar

The famous British brand is in the middle of transitioning into an ultra-luxury, electric car brand. But before the first EVs of the ‘new’ Jaguar start to arrive some time in 2026, the iconic leaping cat is still gracing some of the world’s most elegant petrol-powered sports cars and SUVs.

Jaguar F-Pace 90th Anniv	medium SUV	petrol	new variant	NOW
Jaguar F-Pace SVR				
575 Ultimate	medium SUV	petrol	new variant	NOW
Jaguar F-Type ZP	sports coupe	petrol	new variant	NOW



Jeep

Jeep Avenger	small SUV	electric	new model	NOW
Jeep Gladiator	ute	petrol	update	mid-2025
Jeep Wagoneer S	large SUV	electric	new model	2026
Jeep Wrangler	large SUV	petrol	update	NOW



KGM Ssangyong

KGM Ssangyong Actyon	medium SUV	petrol	new gen*	mid-2025
KGM Ssangyong Musso	ute	diesel	update	mid-2025
KGM Ssangyong Rexton	large SUV	diesel	update	mid-2025
KGM Ssangyong Torres	medium SUV	petrol	new model	NOW

CAR	SIZE	POWER	TYPE	TIMING
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Kia

Kia EV3	small SUV	electric	new model	NOW
Kia EV4	medium SUV	electric	new model	Q4 2025
Kia EV5 GT-Line	medium SUV	electric	new variant	NOW
Kia EV6	medium SUV	electric	update	Q2 2025
Kia EV9 GT	large SUV	electric	new variant	mid-2025
Kia K4	small sedan	petrol	new model	NOW
Kia K4 Hatch	small hatch	petrol	new variant	Q4 2025
Kia Seltos	small SUV	petrol	new gen*	TBC
Kia Sportage	medium SUV	petrol / hybrid	update	Q2 2025
Kia Stonic	small SUV	petrol	update	TBC
Kia Tasman	ute	diesel	new model	mid-2025



Lamborghini

Lamborghini Revuelto	supercar	hybrid	new model	NOW
Lamborghini Temerario	sports coupe	hybrid	new model	mid-2025
Lamborghini Urus SE	large SUV	PHEV	new variant	NOW



Land Rover

Land Rover Defender	large SUV	petrol/diesel/hybrid	update	NOW
Land Rover Defender OCTA	large SUV	petrol	new variant	Q2 2025



LDV

LDV D90	large SUV	petrol	update	NOW
LDV Deliver 7	van	diesel	new model	NOW
LDV eDeliver 7	van	electric	new model	NOW
LDV eTerraon 9	ute	electric	new model	mid-2025
LDV G10	van	diesel	update	SOON
LDV Mifa 8-seater	people mover	petrol	new variant	NOW
LDV T60	ute	diesel	update	NOW
LDV Terraon 9	ute	diesel	new model	mid-2025

*new generation

CAR SIZE POWER TYPE TIMING



Leapmotor

Another Chinese maker of electric cars, Leapmotor is backed by Stellantis, the parent company of Jeep, Ram, Peugeot, Fiat and Alfa Romeo and enters the Australian market with a range of electric SUVs. First cab off the rank is the Leapmotor C10, an electric medium SUV that will be priced under \$50,000.

Leapmotor B10	small SUV	electric	new model	Q3 2025
Leapmotor C10	medium SUV	electric	new model	NOW
Leapmotor C10 REEV	medium SUV	hybrid	new variant	Q2 2025

Just around the corner

There's always a corner on the road ahead, and as we go to press there are even more new car brands waiting in the wings to set their wheels on local roads. Here's a few new brands to watch out for in the coming months. Yes, they are all from China, but remember that the Chinese market is still expanding where other key manufacturing nations are already more established.

Changang Jetour GAC Lynk & Co



CAR SIZE POWER TYPE TIMING



Lexus

Lexus GX	large SUV	petrol	new model	NOW
Lexus LBX Morizo RR	small SUV	petrol	new variant	mid-2025
Lexus LX	large SUV	petrol / diesel	update	mid-2025
Lexus LX Overtrail	large SUV	petrol / diesel	new variant	mid-2025
Lexus RX 450h+	large SUV	PHEV	new variant	Q2 2025
Lexus RZ	large SUV	electric	update	mid-2025



Lotus

Lotus Eletre	large SUV	electric	new model	NOW
Lotus Emeya	sports sedan	electric	new model	NOW
Lotus Emira	sports coupe	petrol	update	Q4 2025

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*3 years or 45,000 kms (whichever occurs first) complimentary scheduled servicing. Excludes wear and tear items and additional work or components required that are not set out in the manufacturer service schedule. ^\$5,000 trade in allowance will be applied at the point of sale and is not transferable, exchangeable or redeemable for cash.

CAR	SIZE	POWER	TYPE	TIMING
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Mahindra

The Indian carmaker is eyeing further expansion into the Australian market with a range of electric vehicles rumoured to be joining the brand's local line up of value-packed SUVs in 2026. Also on the cards is Mahindra's next-generation dual-cab Pik-Up ute. All are expected some time in 2026.

Mahindra 3XO	small SUV	petrol	new model	TBC
Mahindra Scorpio	medium SUV	diesel	update	Q4 2025
Mahindra Scorpio 7-seater	medium SUV	diesel	new variant	NOW
Mahindra XUV700	medium SUV	petrol	update	NOW



Maserati

The iconic Italian brand continues its transition to electrification with two new EVs, the stunning Gran Turismo Foglore sports car and its slightly bonkers 2.7-seconds 0-100km/h claim. It will be joined by a more mainstream Grecale Foglore medium SUV.

Maserati GranTurismo Foglore Anniversario	sports coupe	electric	new variant	SOON
Maserati Grecale Foglore	medium SUV	electric	new variant	SOON
Maserati GT2 Stradale	supercar	petrol	new model	mid-2025



Mazda

Mazda BT-50	ute	diesel	update	NOW
Mazda CX-3	small SUV	petrol	update	NOW
Mazda CX-60	medium SUV	petrol/diesel/hybrid	update	mid-2025
Mazda CX-70	large SUV	petrol / diesel	new model	NOW
Mazda CX-80	large SUV	petrol/diesel/hybrid	new model	NOW
Mazda MX5 35th Anniv	sports convertible	petrol	new variant	NOW
Mazda2	small hatch	petrol	update	NOW



McLaren

McLaren Artura Spider	sports convertible	hybrid	new variant	NOW
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CAR	SIZE	POWER	TYPE	TIMING
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Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-AMG GT63 Pro	sports coupe	petrol	new variant	Q2 2025
Mercedes-Benz C350e	medium sedan	PHEV	new variant	Q2 20
Mercedes-Benz CLA-Class	small sedan	electric	new gen*	2026
Mercedes-Benz CLE53	sports coupe	petrol	new variant	NOW
Mercedes-Benz CLE53 Cabrio	sports convertible	petrol	new variant	Q2 2025
Mercedes-Benz E53	sports sedan	PHEV	new variant	NOW
Mercedes-Benz EQA Night	small SUV	electric	new variant	NOW
Mercedes-Benz EQB Night	small SUV	electric	new variant	NOW
Mercedes-Benz EQV	people mover	electric	update	NOW
Mercedes-Benz eSprinter	van	electric	new variant	NOW
Mercedes-Benz eVito	van	electric	update	NOW
Mercedes-Benz G580	large SUV	electric	new variant	NOW
Mercedes-Benz GLC200	medium SUV	petrol	new variant	NOW
Mercedes-Benz SL680	sports convertible	petrol	new variant	2026
Mercedes-Benz V-Class	people mover	diesel	update	NOW
Mercedes-Benz Vito	van	diesel	update	NOW



MG

The once British, now Chinese manufacturer has gone from being a niche offering at the budget end of the new car market into a fully-fledged mainstream brand in Australia. Its total sales in 2024 cemented MG firmly inside the top 10 last year, a position it shows little sign of relinquishing. MG's product portfolio is broad, encompassing affordable small cars with an expanding range of electric cars, hybrid and plug-in hybrids and even the flagship Cyberster sports car.

MG 3	small hatch	petrol / hybrid	new gen*	NOW
MG 5	small sedan	petrol	update	TBC
MG 7	medium sedan	petrol	new model	late-2025
MG Cyberster	sports convertible	electric	new model	NOW
MG HS Hybrid+	medium SUV	hybrid	new variant	mid-2025
MG HS PHEV	medium SUV	PHEV	new variant	mid-2025
MG QS	large SUV	petrol / hybrid	new model	mid-2025
MG S5	small SUV	electric	new model	Q2 2025
MG Ute	ute	diesel	new model	TBC
MG ZS	small SUV	petrol / hybrid	new generation	NOW



Mini

Mini Aceman JCW	small SUV	electric	new variant	SOON
Mini Cooper convertible	sports convertible	petrol	new gen*	Q2 2025
Mini Cooper JCW	sports hatch	petrol	new variant	Q2 2025
Mini Cooper JCW convertible	sports convertible	petrol	new gen*	Q2 2025
Mini Cooper JCW E	small hatch	electric	new variant	Q2 2025
Mini Countryman	small SUV	petrol/electric	new gen*	NOW

CAR	SIZE	POWER	TYPE	TIMING
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Mitsubishi ASX	small SUV	petrol	new gen*	late-2025
Mitsubishi Outlander	medium SUV	petrol/hybrid	update	Q3 2025
Mitsubishi Pajero Sport	large SUV	diesel	new gen*	2026
Mitsubishi Triton cab chassis	ute	diesel	new variant	mid-2025
Mitsubishi Triton GSR Special Edition	ute	diesel	new variant	NOW



Nissan Ariya	medium SUV	electric	new model	late-2025
Nissan Juke	small SUV	petrol	update	NOW
Nissan Leaf	small SUV	electric	new gen*	2026
Nissan Navara	ute	diesel	new gen*	Q4 2025
Nissan Pathfinder ST-L	large SUV	petrol	new variant	NOW
Nissan Qashqai	small SUV	petrol / hybrid	update	NOW
Nissan X-Trail N-Trek	medium SUV	petrol	new variant	NOW
Nissan Z Nismo	sports coupe	petrol	new variant	NOW



Peugeot 2008 MH	small SUV	hybrid	new variant	NOW
Peugeot 3008 MH	small SUV	hybrid	new gen*	NOW
Peugeot 308 MH	small hatch	hybrid	new variant	NOW
Peugeot 408 MH	medium SUV	hybrid	new variant	NOW
Peugeot 5008 MH	medium SUV	hybrid	new gen*	NOW
Peugeot Expert	van	petrol / electric	update	NOW



Polestar 3 LRSM	medium SUV	electric	new variant	SOON
Polestar 4	medium sedan	electric	new model	NOW
Polestar 5	sports sedan	electric	new model	late-2025

CAR	SIZE	POWER	TYPE	TIMING
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Porsche 911	sports coupe	petrol / hybrid	update	NOW
Porsche 911 GT3	sports coupe	petrol	update	mid-2025
Porsche Macan	medium SUV	electric	new gen*	NOW
Porsche Panamera				
Turbo E-Hybrid	large sedan	hybrid	new variant	NOW
Porsche Taycan GTS	large sedan	electric	update	NOW



RAM 1500	ute	petrol	update	NOW
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Range Rover Sport SV	large SUV	petrol	new variant	NOW
Range Rover SV Orpheus	large SUV	petrol	new variant	mid-2025

*new generation

If at first you don't succeed...

There are some familiar faces among Australia's new car brands, albeit mostly as reborn or renewed entities. It's not the first time either, plenty of brands have taken a number of spins at the great Australian new car market merry-go-round.

Cadillac Sold here in the 1960s, then again in the 1980s before a stillborn launch in 2009. Now 'the Cadillac of automobiles' is back with factory support and an all-electric line-up.

Chery Held the trophy for Australia's most affordable new car when sold between 2011 and 2014, but now back with a vast step forward in technology and quality.

Chevrolet Offered locally until 1980 before relaunching with re-engineered RHD Silverado ute in 2018.

Cupra Was initially a model name of Spanish-based VW-owned brand Seat, sold here between 1995 and 1999.

Foton Tunland ute sold locally between 2012 and 2019, but the brand is due to return this year.

Geely Sold briefly in Western Australia in 2010 and 2011, but re-launched late last year.

GWM Had an initial stint as Great Wall Motors from 2009, and Haval from 2015, but relaunched with a single brand name and significant change in product from 2021-on.

KGM Ssangyong New name for the established South Korean brand pushes it up the alphabetical listings and is in reference to new corporate owner, KG Group.

MG Third time's the charm for MG, with sports cars initially sold by British Leyland until 1980, then passenger cars under the Rover Group between 1997 and 2005, and finally the brand as we know today as MG Motor since 2012.

Smart The Mercedes-Benz / Swatch joint venture was a fixture in the Australian market between 2003 and 2014, but is now back as a joint venture between Mercedes-Benz and Chinese-based Geely Group.

CAR	SIZE	POWER	TYPE	TIMING
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Renault

Renault 5	sports hatch	electric	new model	TBC
Renault Arkana	small SUV	petrol	update	NOW
Renault Captur	small SUV	petrol	update	mid-2025
Renault Duster	medium SUV	petrol	new model	mid-2025
Renault Kangoo	van	petrol / electric	update	SOON



Rolls-Royce

Rolls-Royce Cullinan	large SUV	petrol	update	NOW
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Skoda

Skoda Elroq	small SUV	electric	new model	Q3 2025
Skoda Enyaq	small SUV	electric	update	Q3 2025
Skoda Kamiq	small SUV	petrol	update	NOW
Skoda Karoq	medium SUV	petrol	update	NOW
Skoda Kodiaq	large SUV	petrol	new gen*	NOW
Skoda Kodiaq RS	large SUV	petrol	new variant	Q3 2025
Skoda Octavia RS	med sedan/wagon	petrol	update	NOW
Skoda Octavia Sportline	med sedan/wagon	petrol	update	NOW
Skoda Superb	large sedan/wagon	petrol	new gen*	Q3 2025



Off-menu choices

Not enough from the 69 active brands to tempt your desire? Luckily, if you have significantly deep pockets, you can shop ‘off-menu’ and order a ridiculously over-the-top set of wheels from a trio of licenced importers.

Pagani Utopia	Zagame Automotive	6.0-litre V12 twin-turbo Italian hypercar	\$4m+
Koenigsegg Jesko	Sullivan Kerr	5.0-litre V8 twin-turbo Swedish hypercar	\$5m+
Pininfarina Battista	Lorbeck Luxury Cars	1417kW quad-electric motor Italian hypercar	\$3.5m+

CAR	SIZE	POWER	TYPE	TIMING
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Skyworth

Skyworth has already gone through a name change before ever touching down Australia. Previously known as Skywell, the Chinese-owned tech company is better known for electronic consumer goods in its homeland but arrives on our shores with a mid-size electric SUV – the Skyworth BE11 – offering an affordable alternative to the best-selling Tesla Model Y. It’s a first toe-in-the-water foray into the passenger car market for Skyworth.

Skyworth BE11	medium SUV	electric	new model	NOW
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Smart

The former collaboration between Mercedes-Benz and Swatch watches that once gave us those quirky and tiny two-seat cars, is back in Australia. Mercedes-Benz is still involved but this time around its partnering with Chinese auto giant Geely on a range of electric cars and SUVs that take a more conventional approach than the micro cars of its previous iteration. Already in Australia are the Smart #1, and #3 with #5, a medium electric SUV to follow this year.

Smart #1	small SUV	electric	new model	NOW
Smart #3	small SUV	electric	new model	NOW
Smart #5	medium SUV	electric	new model	late-2025



Subaru

Subaru Forester	medium SUV	petrol / hybrid	new gen*	mid-2025
Subaru Impreza	small hatch	petrol	new gen*	NOW
Subaru WRX tS Spec B	sports sedan	petrol	new variant	SOON



Suzuki

Suzuki Fronx	small SUV	petrol	new model	mid-2025
Suzuki S-Cross MH	small SUV	hybrid	new variant	late-2025
Suzuki Swift	small hatch	hybrid	new gen*	NOW
Suzuki Vitara	small SUV	petrol	update	late-2025

CAR	SIZE	POWER	TYPE	TIMING
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Tesla

The American manufacturer of electric cars needs little in the way of introduction, Widely credited with bringing EVs into the mainstream, Tesla remains the largest selling electric car brand in the world. For now, Chinese giant BYD is breathing down Tesla's neck in its bid to become the world's biggest EV brand. To boost sales, Tesla has updated its best-selling Model Y medium SUV to keep it fresh in the face of a model onslaught from challenger brands. And recently the company's local representatives confirmed it remained hopeful of bringing the polarising Cybertruck to Australia some time in the future, if it can overcome regulatory hurdles.

Tesla Model Y	medium SUV	electric	update	NOW
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Toyota

Toyota bZ4X	medium SUV	electric	update	Q4 2025
Toyota Camry	medium sedan	hybrid	new gen*	NOW
Toyota GR Corolla	sports hatch	petrol	update	NOW
Toyota GR Supra Track Ed	sports coupe	petrol	new variant	mid-2025
Toyota GR Yaris	sports hatch	petrol	update	NOW
Toyota HiLux	ute	diesel	new gen*	2026
Toyota LandCruiser 300 Series	large SUV	diesel	update	Q2 2025
Toyota LandCruiser 70 Series manual	ute	diesel	new variant	NOW
Toyota Prado	large SUV	diesel	new gen*	NOW
Toyota RAV4	medium SUV	hybrid	new gen*	2026
Toyota Tundra Platinum	ute	hybrid	new variant	Q2 2025



Volkswagen

Volkswagen Amarok 10 Deserts Ed	ute	diesel	new variant	Q2 2025
Volkswagen Caravelle	people mover	diesel	new gen*	late-2025
Volkswagen Crafter	van	diesel	update	mid-2025
Volkswagen Golf	small hatch	petrol	update	Q2 2025
Volkswagen ID. Buzz Cargo	van	electric	new variant	NOW
Volkswagen ID. Buzz GTX	people mover	electric	new variant	mid-2025
Volkswagen ID.4	medium SUV	electric	new model	NOW
Volkswagen ID.5	medium SUV	electric	new model	NOW
Volkswagen Multivan Life	people mover	diesel	new gen*	SOON
Volkswagen Multivan Style	people mover	diesel	new variant	mid-2025
Volkswagen Polo	small hatch	petrol	update	NOW
Volkswagen T-Cross	small SUV	petrol	update	NOW
Volkswagen T-Roc	small SUV	petrol	update	NOW
Volkswagen Tayron	medium SUV	petrol	new model	late-2025
Volkswagen Tiguan	medium SUV	petrol	new gen*	Q2 2025
Volkswagen Transporter	van	diesel	new gen*	late-2025

CAR	SIZE	POWER	TYPE	TIMING
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Volvo

Volvo ES90	large sedan	electric	new model	Q3 2025
Volvo EX30 Cross Country	small SUV	electric	new variant	Q3 2025
Volvo EX40	small SUV	electric	update	NOW
Volvo EX90	large SUV	electric	new model	NOW
Volvo XC60	medium SUV	hybrid	update	Q3 2025
Volvo XC90	large SUV	hybrid	update	Q2 2025



XPeng

Yet another Chinese brand looking to grab a slice of the Australian electric vehicle market, Xpeng launched late last year with its Tesla Model Y-rivalling G6 medium SUV. More models, including a people mover and large SUV are due to follow in 2026.

XPeng G6	medium SUV	electric	new model	NOW
XPeng G6 Performance	medium SUV	electric	new variant	mid-2025
XPeng G9	large SUV	electric	new model	2026
XPeng X9	people mover	electric	new model	2026



Zeekr

Sharing its underpinnings with Volvo's range of electric cars, the Chinese brand entered the Australian market late last year with the Zeekr X small SUV and 009 people mover. It should come as no surprise that Zeekr shares its EV platforms with Volvo, both companies owned by Chinese giant Geely, which also includes Polestar, Lotus, Lynk & Co and Smart in its portfolio.

Zeekr 009	people mover	electric	new model	NOW
Zeekr 7X	medium SUV	electric	new model	late-2025
Zeekr X	small SUV	electric	new model	NOW

*new generation



The information presented here is generally correct at the time of going to print, but the market is changing daily so your best way to keep up to date is via the Drive 2025 New Car Calendar which is available at www.drive.com.au/new-car-calendar or by scanning the QR code here.

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