

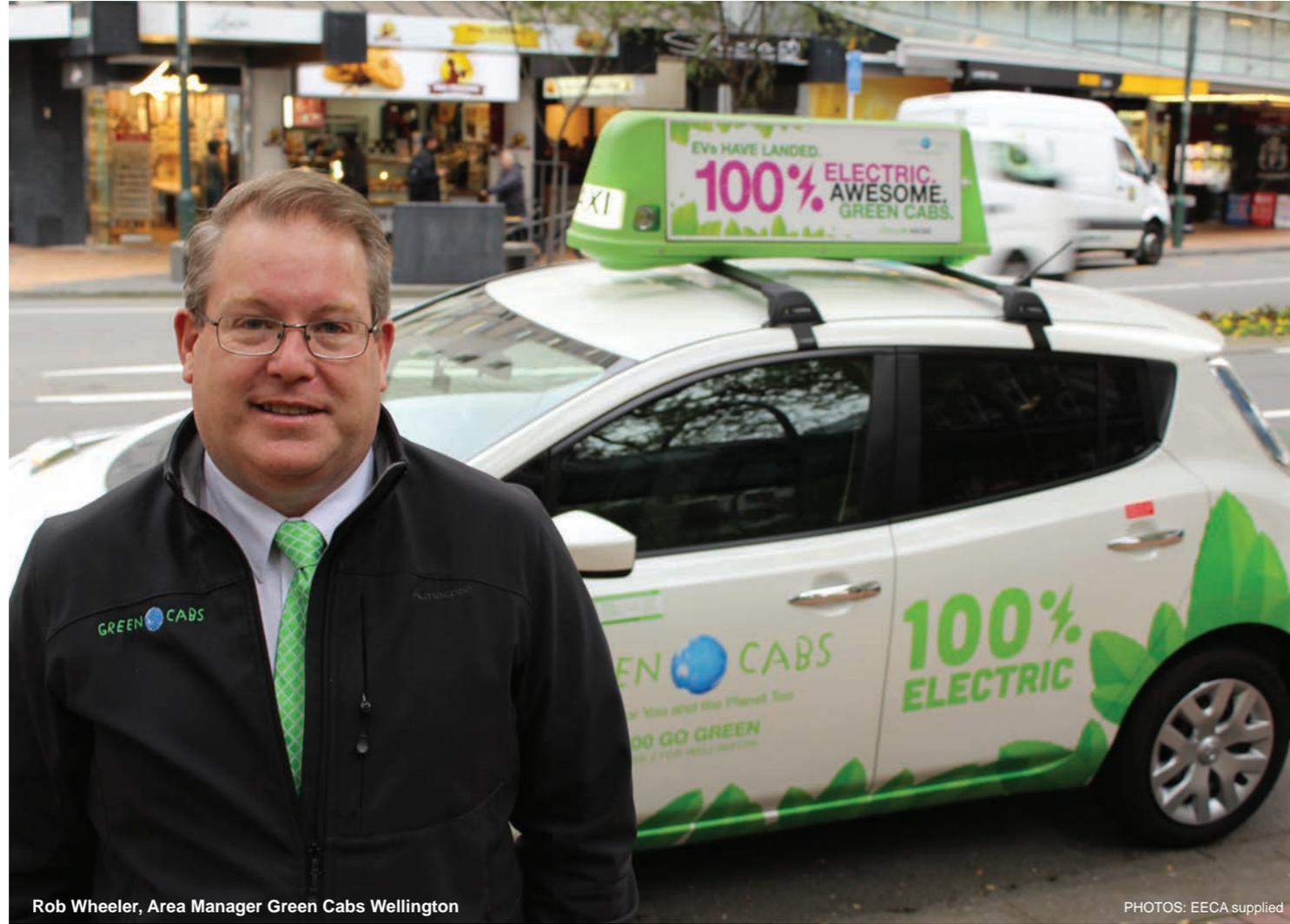
First electric cabs off the rank

Green Cabs is plugging into the electric vehicle market, with the introduction of fully electric cars to its Wellington taxi fleet.

The company, which led the way in the use of the earlier technology non-plug in hybrid taxis, is using the Wellington market to pilot electric vehicles and prove their commercial viability, after receiving funding from the Government's Low Emission Vehicles Contestable Fund. The fund provides up to 50 per cent funding for projects that encourage and support the uptake of electric vehicles and other low emission vehicles on public roads and that make use of New Zealand's renewable electricity advantage.

One of its first electric cabs off the rank is a Nissan Leaf. Green Cabs' Wellington area manager, Rob Wheeler, said the Japanese import, which is a year old and has 8000km on the clock, is economical. At about 30 cents a litre the cars are cheaper to run than others in the fleet. Drivers should get between 180km and 200km out of a full charge, which takes several hours if using a standard home socket. For drivers in a hurry, an 80% charge can take as little as 20 minutes if using a fast charger somewhere like a Z service station.

Green Cabs is offering free rides in the Wellington CBD in its electric vehicle, through bookings on its Go Green app.



Rob Wheeler, Area Manager Green Cabs Wellington

PHOTOS: EECA supplied

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Rob Wheeler, Area Manager Green Cabs Wellington

For more information on electric vehicles visit:
<https://www.electricvehicles.govt.nz>



DANNY WILSON
42, Manager, Christchurch

Does it feel different to driving in a traditional car?

It's very quiet.

Would you go out of your way to choose an electric vehicle over a hybrid or petrol cab?

It could be the influencer.

What's your normal mode of transport?

I walk to work. It's a nice way to start the day and end the day as well.



TAMMY GROVES
28, Events Manager, Auckland

Does it feel different to driving in a traditional car?

Quieter, smoother. A little bit more of a peaceful ride I suppose.

Would you go out of your way to choose an electric vehicle over a hybrid or petrol cab?

No.

What's your normal mode of transport?

I use public transport a lot, mainly for convenience.



HUMPHREY TAPPER
43, Lawyer, Christchurch

Does it feel different to driving in a traditional car?

It's certainly quieter and it's certainly smoother. It's got a wee bit more acceleration and seems very responsive, which is good around the city.

Would you go out of your way to choose an electric vehicle over a hybrid or petrol cab?

Yes.

What's your normal mode of transport?

I drive, but occasionally catch the bus.



RIKKI KNIGHT-TREMBATH
32, Digital Artist, United Kingdom

Does it feel different to driving in a traditional car?

It's quieter and smoother.

Would you go out of your way to choose an electric vehicle over a hybrid or petrol cab?

Yes, that's why I chose Green Cabs over the other ones today.

What's your normal mode of transport?

I like to walk and cycle.