



# Redarc plugs into electric vehicles



**POWERING UP:** Redarc managing director Anthony Kittel believes the electric vehicle market present a significant growth opportunity. Picture: MIKE BURTON/AAP

## CHRIS RUSSELL

LONSDALE electronics manufacturer Redarc has entered the electric vehicle market in a strategic partnership with a Norwegian company.

"We're moving into the electric vehicle space offering charging solutions and products that integrate into your electric vehicle," Redarc chief executive Anthony Kittel said.

"We'll be offering roadside charging stations, charging systems for your home and plug-in options for all the different types of vehicles."

Redarc will sell and service products from its partner, Defa, throughout the Asia Pacific. In turn, Defa will open up European markets for Redarc products.

Norway is the global leader in electric vehicles and Redarc's partnership will give it a gateway to understand the technology and its practical application. First up, Redarc is putting in charging stations at its own premises.

"Then we're already working with a couple of other companies to get charging stations in their car parks," he said.

"Charging systems can be installed in car parks, city buildings, roadside service stations, offices and apartment complexes.

"And we're looking at portable power systems for people who want to take their eV into the Outback."

Redarc has extensive experience in catering to the Outback and recreational vehicle market both in Australia and in exports, especially to the US.

"Our core business is around power systems for people who want to travel," Mr Kittel said.

Redarc designs and manufactures energy management systems and sells various types of solar panels including solar blankets – pliable panels which can fold up to the size of a picnic blanket.

"You can set up your vehicle and be out there indefinitely, including running your coffee machine and a few other comforts from home," he said.

Redarc has invested \$22 million on expanding its plant at Lonsdale. It took on an extra 30 people last year and now has a 200-strong workforce.

Mr Kittel aims to increase

that to about 300 by 2025.

A 100kW solar array installed just over a year ago cost \$110,000 and Mr Kittel expects to get a payback within about three years.

"We've also just recently put in a 120kWh Tesla battery bank," he said.

"That allows us to take off the peaks in our energy usage."

Redarc has recently renewed its sponsorship to 2023 of the TAFESA vehicle in the World Solar Challenge car race between Darwin and Adelaide in October.