

An Open Letter to State Premiers and Energy Ministers

To: Premier Palaszczuk, Premier Berejiklian, Chief Minister Barr, Premier Andrews, Premier Hodgman and Premier Marshall

Cc: all members of the COAG Energy Council

Australia urgently needs a national plan to cut climate pollution in the electricity sector.

On the evidence available today, the proposed National Energy Guarantee (NEG) will do no such thing.

In fact, it is forecast to deliver more climate pollution and less renewable energy than if the federal government continues to do nothing and state governments continue to take the lead with their own renewable energy targets.[1], [2]

To be taken seriously as a genuine contribution to a cleaner, fairer and more affordable electricity for all Australians, any national policy must:

- Speed up the replacement of polluting coal power with clean energy
- Enable the electricity sector to lead the way in cutting climate pollution, in line with the Paris Agreement to limit dangerous global warming to 1.5-2 degrees
- Distribute the benefits and costs of the policy fairly, without handing windfall gains or more market power to the big corporations that already dominate the electricity sector.

As it stands, the NEG is set to fail on all three counts. Once the contribution of solar households and leading state governments is accounted for, a 'do nothing' scenario will deliver more renewable energy than the National Energy Guarantee. Energy experts are also deeply concerned that the NEG will favour the biggest energy corporations, who already dominate the market, over smaller and cleaner providers.[3], [4]

We the undersigned call on all state Premiers and Energy Ministers to stand up for clean energy and reject the National Energy Guarantee unless they can secure national targets to cut climate pollution that will substantially increase the growth of renewable energy, rather than slowing it down.

References:

[1] Reputex, 'Modelling the interaction between the NEG and State RET schemes', March 18, 2018

[2] Climate Council, 'Clean & Reliable Power: Roadmap to a Renewable Future', March 2, 2018

[3] Bruce Mountain, 'A description and critique of the National Energy Guarantee', January 2018

[4] Climate Council, 'Clean & Reliable Power: Roadmap to a Renewable Future', March 2, 2018



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