

# Five Big Ideas to Repower Australia with Clean Energy

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November 2018

*Based on “A Plan to Repower Australia” and developed further by Getup!, Australian Conservation Foundation, Community Power Agency, Environmental Justice Australia, Environment Victoria and Solar Citizens*

**Repowering Australia with clean energy will give us lower energy prices, better jobs, cleaner air, and healthier communities.** And help protect us from extreme weather due to climate change.

The good news is that the global energy transition has gathered an unstoppable momentum, but the shape of the transition is still up for grabs. **Making sure the energy transition is as fast as climate change demands and as fair and equitable as we demand will rely on effective policy being set by the Federal Government.**

To help support this process, **we have identified five big ideas that would help accelerate the transition to 100% renewable energy** and away from coal and gas, while ensuring that Australia extracts maximum benefit from the energy revolution:

## **1. Make Australia a Renewable Superpower**

Our abundance of renewable resources means we can become a renewables superpower by:

- a. Driving the establishment of a renewable export industry
- b. Supporting industry and manufacturers to make the transition
- c. Building the transmission infrastructure we need to open up new renewable energy zones
- d. Hunting out the good clean energy jobs

To do this we need funding for renewable export research and development, trials and new renewable export infrastructure, transmission lines and supply chains. We also need a Clean Energy Solution Centre - a one-stop-shop that would help business access finance, grants and expertise to switch away from fossil fuels to clean energy. A Government Inquiry into the job opportunities in clean energy would be a good first step.

## 2. Affordable Clean Energy for All

Make sure that all Australians benefit from the renewable energy transition, no matter where they live, no matter how much they earn by:

- a. Accelerating access to renewables and energy efficiency for low income earners & renters
- b. Supporting community energy initiatives across the country
- c. Supporting Indigenous communities to benefit
- d. Ending price-gouging by retailers

To do this we need to an Indigenous clean energy program, solar rebates for renters and energy performance standards for households so they are warm in winter and cool in summer. We also need a Community Power Hubs program with 50 Hubs supporting community owned renewables across the country - think Landcare for clean energy!

## 3. Just Transition Package

Look after workers and affected communities by setting up a Just Transition Authority to manage the impacts of the energy transition and establish job hubs in transitioning communities to develop new, sustainable jobs.

#### **4. Create National Air Pollution Standards as part of a New Generation of Environment Laws**

Coal power stations are not just Australia's biggest domestic source of climate pollution they are also our biggest source of toxic air pollution. To protect the health of all Australians and ensure polluters are paying for the health impacts of their pollution we need to establish a National Commission to set stringent and binding national air pollution standards and a Federal Environmental Protection Authority to strongly enforce non-compliance.

#### **5. A Real Climate Plan for the Power Sector**

Australia's power sector is our biggest domestic contributor to climate change. We must urgently lower climate pollution in our power sector by:

- a. Speeding up the roll-out of wind and solar and ensuring the renewables industry does not go into a bust phase after this current boom
- b. Setting a real carbon budget that reflects our fair share of the Paris climate target and refunding and increasing the independence of the Climate Change Authority so they can do the job
- c. Incentivising on-demand renewable energy, storage and flexible demand solutions
- d. Doubling energy productivity
- e. Accelerating a managed and orderly retirement of coal fired power stations, and
- f. Ensuring our electricity system rules support the transition to clean energy and away from coal rather than act as roadblocks to action

To do this we need to set a renewables and storage target for the next term of government - 18.5GWs would keep the current renewables industry going and add the on-demand clean energy that needs to come down the cost curve. We also need to re-fund Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and change the National Electricity Objective to include climate and environmental considerations.