



## **AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL AUSTRALIANS**

### ***IT IS TIME FOR ENERGY REALITY***

Dear Fellow Australians,

Australia stands at a crossroads—how we power our future will define the kind of nation we leave for our children and grandchildren.


We, the undersigned, contend that expensive and irreversible decisions are being made—driven by ideology, quick profits, and political spin—not long-term thinking, scientific rigour, or transparency. We are being pushed into a reckless, multi-trillion-dollar energy experiment without proper planning, honest debate, or engineering oversight.



We are a group of leading energy experts, engineers, scientists, economists, conservationists, industrial energy users and community leaders who are deeply concerned by the direction of Australia's energy policy and the growing gap between government promises and hard realities.

The current energy plan is expensive, environmentally destructive and incapable of powering a modern and secure Australian economy

The consequences of this misguided energy policy are financially and strategically enormous and will be paid for by many generations of Australians, as energy costs flow into every aspect of the economy and daily life. Bad energy policy drives up the costs of everything we produce and consume.

#### **What Every Australian Should Know**

- In the past reliable and affordable baseload energy has powered Australia's prosperity for many generations.
  - The current energy policies of state and federal governments are setting us up for failure with unstable energy supply and higher prices.
  - Renewable energy is highly variable, unreliable, and costly when considering total system costs, even with the inclusion of batteries.
  - A modern industrial economy, such as Australia's, can only be satisfied with always available and reliable low-cost electricity.
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- Despite our vast natural resources, Australia now has some of the highest electricity prices in the world. In 2022 the government promised \$275 in savings. Instead, families are paying up to \$1,000 more on their bills.
  - The Net Zero Australia report – prepared by the University of Melbourne, University of Queensland, and Princeton University, advised by the Australian Conservation Foundation and Climate Council, and sponsored by the Minderoo Foundation – estimates a full renewables-only transition would cost between \$7 and \$9 trillion over the next 35 years, including the government’s “green hydrogen superpower” plans.
  - This is the equivalent of up to \$850,000 per household—a figure quietly buried by its own supporters as it would bankrupt the nation. [<https://www.netzeroaustralia.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Net-Zero-Australia-Modelling-Summary-Report.pdf>]
  - The repeated false claim that nuclear would cost \$600 billion was created by a renewable energy lobby group that receives funding from renewable energy suppliers and donates to the political parties - so are far from independent.
  - Their figure is five times the real cost estimate of Nuclear which based on CSIRO data is approximately \$120 billion and would deliver decades of secure, zero-emissions, reliable power.
  - Under current policies the risk of blackouts is real and rising. [[AEMO warns of blackouts in 10-year energy forecast | news.com.au – Australia’s leading news site](https://www.news.com.au/news/national/aemo-warns-of-blackouts-in-10-year-energy-forecast/news-story/2023-04-11)]
  - Large-scale renewable projects are destroying habitats, displacing wildlife, and degrading farmland. [[Impacts of large-scale renewables – Rainforest Reserves Australia](https://www.rainforestreservesaustralia.org.au/impacts-of-large-scale-renewables)]
  - New transmission lines are carving a swath through regional Australia. Thousands of kilometres of high-voltage towers and wind turbine pylons are being built on the high country and disrupting farms and communities.
  - The government’s plan is based on discredited analysis. The modelling for the current government plan for the renewable transition has been rejected and discredited even by the government’s own frontbenchers. Despite this, policymakers and politicians are pushing ahead with these policies without a replacement model and one that reveals the total system costs.
  - Billions of dollars in public money are being funnelled into subsidies and guaranteed profits for mostly overseas renewable investors—without delivering energy certainty or providing cost transparency.
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- If renewables are the cheapest option, why won't the government reveal the total system costs, including costs of backup, storage, transmission and distribution, maintenance, replacement and recycling. And why do they still require massive subsidies if they are so cheap?
- We're paying three times for higher energy:
  1. Through inflated energy bills;
  2. When those costs raise prices for other goods and services; and again
  3. Through taxes and debt to fund billions in inflationary energy subsidies for those same taxpayers that are not delivering lower underlying costs.
- Current policy makes energy cheap for the most well off, and more expensive for everyone else. Even with taxpayer subsidies, home batteries still cost \$8,000 to \$10,000—well out of reach for most families.
- Higher energy costs are driving manufacturing offshore, costing local jobs and leaving Australia unprepared for crises. Most renewable jobs are short-term, low-skilled, or disappear after initial construction.
- Offshore manufacturing of wind turbines, solar panels and batteries requires considerable energy which is largely provided by coal. Their short lifespan results in considerable 'whole of life' emissions as they must be regularly replaced.
- Australia should be self-sufficient in resources and energy, but importing renewables risks our national security by putting us at the mercy of foreign powers and exposing us to supply chain disruption and regional conflicts.
- The renewable supply chain relies on human suffering. The vast majority of solar panels, wind turbines, and batteries are manufactured in countries with cheap labour and poor human rights records—including some linked to forced or slave labour.
- Most importantly, powerful interests are influencing energy policy in Australia. Many energy and environmental organisations in Australia are funded by foreign investors, foreign renewable manufacturers, and billionaire donors without sufficient transparency.

### We Can Still Lead the World—If We Choose To

Australia has the resources, the know-how, and the people to create a balanced and responsible energy future. We can better protect our environment, lower costs, and ensure energy sovereignty—without bankrupting households or sacrificing our communities.

We can have all of this – if we bring back truth, transparency, and honest debate.

We're the only G20 country that bans zero emission nuclear energy. Every other advanced economy includes nuclear in its net-zero energy mix. If nuclear power is so uneconomic, why does it need to be banned?

We're calling for the lifting of the outdated and unscientific ban on nuclear energy and full transparency on funding and influence.

All advocacy groups shaping energy policy must declare their funding from foreign groups, renewable suppliers, or other vested interests.

We call for an end to market bodies declaring a politically determined policy pathway to be 'optimal' or 'least cost' when they have not compared the pathway to a credible baseline or alternative, and have failed to assess the full system costs.

We must protect our farmland, our forests and oceans from reckless destruction and corporate welfare for renewable energy projects.

**If You Profit From the Outcome, You're not an Expert, You're a Stakeholder. Australians Deserve to Know the Difference. Let's Reclaim the Australian Way.**

We don't bulldoze the environment to "save" it.

We don't ignore slave labour to meet a climate target.

We can rise to the challenge –but only if we take politics and self-interest out of the energy debate.

Energy policy and planning are long term issues. If we don't steer our energy policy away from the rocks now, Australia will face a worsening cost of living crisis for decades to come.

Australia deserves better - an honest bipartisan energy policy in the national interest; one that's grounded in concern for our environment, guided by independent engineers and scientists and able to withstand changes in government.

Signed,

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