



# A CLEAN RECOVERY PLAN

**2020 has been a challenging year for our communities. A deadly bushfire season choked our major cities with smoke over the summer, and now, a global pandemic has brought our economy to a standstill.**

Staring down the impacts of climate change and a recession, people are looking for hope in a recovery plan that will help us now and into the future. That's why we're asking the Federal Government to work with Australian communities like ours in Adelaide, to help us get back on track, by recovering our economy while renewing our climate. It's time for a Clean Recovery.

## THE PROBLEM

COVID19 has threatened our health, emotional wellbeing and employment. Almost one in four Australians don't have enough paid hours to get by<sup>1</sup>, and for every available job, there are 13 people needing work.<sup>2</sup>

**“A lot of people my age are really struggling to find work. A program that creates jobs and helps the environment would be a really good thing for my community.”**

Stephanie, 20, Seaview Downs

At the same time, there has never been more work to do to protect our communities, economy and environment from climate change. Worsening bushfires, drought and heat-waves, are already threatening the people and places we love, and climate impacts are predicted to cost our economy 25% in GDP by 2100.<sup>3</sup>

But we can act. From installing solar panels to making our buildings energy efficient, we can work together to renew our economy, recover our communities and protect our planet.

## THE PLAN

- Make Australia a clean energy superpower
- Repower households and businesses with solar
- Upgrade houses and public buildings to be more energy efficient
- Charge Australia's electric vehicle future
- Create jobs restoring land and ecosystems

# A CLEAN RECOVERY PLAN IS A WIN-WIN

## MAKE AUSTRALIA A CLEAN ENERGY SUPERPOWER

Australia can be a clean energy superpower, exporting our energy to the rest of the world sustainably for decades to come. What's more, government investment in clean energy is shown to create five times greater employment than investment in fossil fuels.<sup>4</sup> Australia has already identified hundreds of job creating clean energy projects ready to get underway.

But the absence of federal government clean energy policy is undermining investor confidence. To unleash a clean technology boom, we need government action, including a commitment to create renewable energy zones and improve transmission infrastructure to build a reliable, connected energy system.

## REPOWER HOUSEHOLDS AND BUSINESSES WITH SOLAR

Across the country, everyday people, renewable experts and the Australian Energy Council are calling on the government to help upgrade households and businesses to solar.<sup>5</sup> A federal grants program will help businesses and households purchase solar batteries, lowering their power prices, creating immediate jobs and boosting Australia's battery industry.

## UPGRADE HOMES AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS

We've all experienced sweating through stifling summer nights, and the freezing bathroom tiles of a winter's morning. And it turns out, our houses aren't helping. Poor insulation and shade control are making us uncomfortable, costing us money and leading people to use more energy than necessary. In fact, houses and buildings are responsible for nearly a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions in Australia due to poor energy efficiency.<sup>6</sup>

We have a huge opportunity to massively reduce emissions and power bills, while creating thousands of jobs, by retrofitting homes and buildings to be more energy efficient.<sup>7</sup> We can install PV solar panels and batteries, improve insulation and where needed, replace poor quality housing. This work should focus on low income households and social housing, which will benefit most from lower power bills.



## CHARGE AUSTRALIA'S ELECTRIC VEHICLE FUTURE

Fast-tracking the uptake of electric vehicles is an exciting way to create jobs, reduce emissions and save drivers' money. With prices falling, electric cars are predicted to account for 70-100% of new vehicle sales by 2040.<sup>8</sup> It's clear why: they're quieter, more reliable, cheaper to run than conventional cars, and could reduce Australian emissions by 6%.<sup>9</sup>

Unfortunately, many people considering buying electric cars are worried about how and where they'll charge it.<sup>10</sup> To prepare for an electric vehicle future, Australia needs more electric vehicle infrastructure, including more urban and long-distance charging networks, fast charging stations, and upgraded parking area wiring.

## RESTORE LAND AND ECOSYSTEMS

We can create tens of thousands of jobs in revegetation and land restoration, creating healthier and greener land for our communities and farmers. According to Beyond Zero Emissions, over half of Australia's land has been 'heavily modified by clearing and/or grazing'<sup>11</sup>, and many of our waterways and ecosystems need restoration from the effects of climate change.

We can plant new trees, native species and sea grass, encourage biodiversity and create more urban gardens, building resilience to extreme weather and restoring our soil so it absorbs more carbon from our atmosphere. This will also create long term jobs open to anyone, with much of the work requiring little training or qualification.

## WHAT COULD A CLEAN RECOVERY LOOK LIKE IN ADELAIDE?

### REPAIR THE GREY BOX WOODLAND

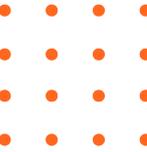
In the Mitcham council area, a Clean Recovery would greatly increase our local capacity to repair our local environment. For example, feral olive trees are crowding out native Grey Box Woodland, of which there is only 8% left in South Australia. Currently there are some small grants available for removal of invasive plants, but much more needs to be done.

A Clean Recovery could not only pay workers to remove the olive trees (which are also a fire hazard), but to grow the natives needed to replace them, in partnership with local regeneration group, Trees For Life.

### COOL ADELAIDE STREETS

Our cities don't cope well with heat waves. Concrete and bitumen surfaces soak up heat during the day and radiate it back out at night, creating a heat island. Urban heat mapping already undertaken by southern Adelaide councils shows many heat islands that could be investigated and addressed. Cooling strategies include tree preservation, tree planting, and water sensitive urban design.

Public spaces could be retrofitted with green infrastructure and improved materials, including stormwater runoff capture, creating more shaded paths for cycling and walking, tree shades and shading of playgrounds. Distributed projects like this create local jobs and could also provide practical vocational training.



## RESTORE OUR SAND DUNES

Sand dunes around Holdfast Bay are already suffering the impacts of climate change, including loss of native species, erosion and the increasing dominance of invasive plants and animals.

The Holdfast Bay Dune Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2024 contains practical recommendations for how to build the resilience of natural systems in the dunes area. This includes planting of native plant species, removal of weed species, ongoing dune restoration and maintenance. This work can be labour intensive and is ideal for long term job creation.

## ADELAIDE WANTS A CLEAN RECOVERY

**82%** of people in Adelaide's electorate of Boothby believe that the federal government should fund a program that creates jobs for Australians who need work

**78%** of people would rather the government focus on creating jobs in the renewables sector rather than in fossil fuels

## REFERENCES

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