



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 the electorate of Brisbane, 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 by¹, and for every available job, there are 13 people needing work.² In Brisbane, almost 9900 people are on JobSeeker.³

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 2100.⁴

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.

“When the pandemic hit, I began stressing almost immediately. With almost everything closing down, I knew that it wouldn't be long until my workplace was next. The anxiety was enormous, and even now I'm worried that when JobKeeper ends, I won't have a job.”

Laura, Lutwyche

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.⁵ 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.⁶ 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.⁷

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. 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. ⁹ It's clear why: they're quieter, more reliable, cheaper to run than conventional cars, and could reduce Australian emissions by 6%. ¹⁰

Unfortunately, many people considering buying electric cars are worried about how and where they'll charge it. ¹¹ 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' ¹², 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 BRISBANE?

"It's very satisfying work, watching things grow and ecosystems recover. I think the community appreciates it. When we started 25 years ago, people were dumping things in the creek, now it's valued."

John, President, Save Our Waterways Now, Enoggera Catchment

RESTORE OUR WATERWAYS

A Clean Recovery could employ Brisbane residents in work helping to restore and conserve our nature, such as the Enoggera Creek Catchment or the Kedron Brook. From the bike track along the brook, to Breakfast Creek, our community loves these special places. "The Kedron Brook was such a respite for everyone during lock-down," says Caitlin from Lutwyche.

But they're under threat from invasive weeds and climbing vines like Chinese Elm and cats claw, which are highly challenging to remove. Volunteers are struggling to tackle large areas needing revegetation. With a Clean Recovery, we could train and employ people to keep these beloved spots thriving for years to come.

“It’s like the chicken and the egg: the private sector isn’t going to invest until they see the demand, but a lot of people are putting off buying if the infrastructure isn’t there. We need the government to step in.”

Jaimyn, Brisbane

CHARGE BRISBANE’S ELECTRIC CARS

Brisbane’s electric car drivers like Jaimyn are proud to be leading the way for ‘cleaner, greener’ transport. And they’re enjoying the benefits too. Another driver, Stewart explains “For me to go from Brisbane to Sunshine Coast costs \$2 of electricity. They’re dead quiet, they’re very powerful and as a paramedic, I love that they’re safe.”

But still, some are facing hurdles getting access to destination chargers in places like car parks and offices. In some cases, apartment blocks don’t have required powerpoints or chargers, posing big barriers for renters who are current or aspiring electric car drivers.

BRISBANE WANTS A CLEAN RECOVERY

80% of people believe that the federal government should fund a program that creates jobs for Australians who need work

74% of people would rather the government focus on creating jobs in the renewables sector rather than in fossil fuels



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