

SUBMISSION TO CLIMATE CHANGE AUTHORITY on
RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGET SCHEME

This submission is from Wollongong Climate Action network.

We urge the government to strengthen its support for renewable energy and to move towards 100% renewable energy.

This is quite possible technically with a combination of energy efficiency, and a combination of renewables including solar thermal. This can happen progressively and should be done as a national infrastructure project, creating work and skills and reducing the need for taxpayer subsidy of the fossil fuel industry. In the 1950's Australia, with a smaller population and economic base than now, created a large renewable energy scheme – the Snowy Scheme . We can do these things with leadership.

The evidence that humans are causing climate change is progressively becoming more certain. The effects have been hidden from the Australian public because of the last 2 “la nina” years. But El Nino , drought and bushfire will return. And people will wonder why the Australian Government was asleep on the job. We CAN set an example, influence the world and be a leader. Currently we lag and deny. This is immoral considering we are a wealthy country. And it is also not in our national interest.

The coal and CSG industries are destroying large areas of Australian arable land and polluting aquifers. In a century when we will need all the water and topsoil we have to feed people it is criminal to let this large scale destruction continue.

Demand for crude oil and gas will continue to grow relative to supply as India and China become more affluent. Planning our economy to depend on resources that will inevitably climb in price is unwise.

Renewable energy installations, if set up properly, provide an important alternative income stream for communities. Hepburn wind is a case in point. Creating alternative income streams and skills makes a rural community healthier, and lessens the need for taxpayer funded drought relief and social services.

The renewable energy industry is growing very fast worldwide. Choosing to suppress development in renewables in Australia, with the jobs, skills and trade opportunities that such development brings is choosing backwardness.