



Refresh Australia!

Add values to build prosperity



Refresh Australia's Climate Change Policy
Maximise renewable energy sources

$$\text{\$ \$ \$} + \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Renewable} \\ \text{energy} \end{array} \right\} + \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Indigenous:} \\ \text{genuine} \\ \text{partnerships} \end{array} \right\} + \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Work/life} \\ \text{balance} \end{array} \right\} = \text{Refreshed Australia}$$

BRIEF NOTES ON THE ISSUE

Climate Change and the Case for Renewable Energy

The science is in. The discussion about whether or not climate change is actually occurring is over. Scientific knowledge has reached a general consensus that it is the significant and ever-increasing human use of fossil fuels for energy and other damaging ways we humans use the planet that is causing the change in the levels of carbon and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere which in turn changes and adversely impacts the precarious balance of the Earth's climate systems.

This is the biggest "global emergency" and we have a small (in terms of time) window of opportunity to drastically reduce and then stabilise the amount of carbon and other greenhouse gases (GHGs) we put into the atmosphere -- in order to avoid catastrophic change for all life and life systems on the blue planet. It is accepted by scientists and even some governments and business that we need to reach targets of a 30% reduction in CO₂ of 1990 levels by 2020, and 60-90% reductions by 2050. Business as usual is not an option. Neither is just tinkering at the edges. A 'great turning' is required.

The good news is that there are lots of things we can do now as individuals, communities, institutions and as a nation to move to a low or zero carbon emission economy and to mitigate the impacts of the worst scenarios (see the actions page for other campaigns on how easy it is to do your bit). However, going beyond the small things individuals, families and communities can do requires clear targets and policies and, most of all, the political will to bring about the substantial and necessary changes. We need climate change and energy policies and mechanisms for mitigation and adaptation that will sit outside the short term election cycle and beyond the self interested reach of the fossil fuel, nuclear and the big polluter industries who contribute to political party coffers. We need to courageously support and advocate policies that have a clear vision of what's needed for the journey we must embark upon and urge the mainstream parties to get on board. We simply do not have the time to wait for the much mooted, still unproven, so called 'clean coal' technologies (carbon capture and storage) and nuclear facilities which will take an estimated 15-30 years to be up and running.

Maximising Renewable Energy is a key solution

Renewable energy technologies have the capacity to be substantially upscaled within a much shorter timeframe of 1-5 years to provide baseload power and so are the best technologies we can have in the short and long-term to create a safe, significantly low carbon, non fossil and non nuclear future for our own and future generations. Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, wind and even cutting edge geothermal energy are already in use worldwide and provide significant baseload power, e.g. California has sourced 25% of energy from solar for over 30 years and there are wind farms in the sea off the coast of NW Europe. These and other significant renewables technologies such as solar thermal offer viable and safe energy generation in the short term.

ACTIONS for climate change/renewable energy policy

- Join the Big Switch campaign and enact the suggestions there:
www.thebigswitch.org.au/
- Lobby Peter Garrett and Malcolm Turnbull re a legislated renewable energy generation target of 30% by 2020 and interim emissions target of a 30% cut in emissions by 2020 (sample letter and addresses below to attach to the campaign card)

Mr Peter Garrett MP
Federal Member for Kingsford Smith
PO Box 249
Maroubra NSW 2035

Peter.Garrett.MP@aph.gov.au

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP
Federal Member for Wentworth
PO Box 1840
Bondi Junction NSW 1355

Malcolm.Turnbull.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear ...

I am extremely concerned about the impacts of climate change on all aspects of life -- environment and economy -- if we do not move to a low carbon future as quickly as possible. I believe that one of the best ways to achieve that is to maximise the opportunities that renewable energy technologies can offer in terms of a sustainable planet and the development of new industries. To provide the mechanisms needed to enable this shift I strongly support a legislated renewable energy generation target/minimum of 30% by 2020 to help meet a legislated interim emissions target of a 30% cut in emissions by 2020. It is time we did what is right and good for all who live on this planet.

Yours sincerely

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Be better informed -- acting on new knowledge goes a long way ...
Knowledge, deliberation and discernment shift opinion and attitudes

For more information go to ...

Climate Action Network Australia (CANA)

- *Loads of information with links to all the key reports from science, climate justice and renewable energy perspectives as well as economics and business:* www.cana.net.au/
- *CANA'S comprehensive policy document on the way forward to a low carbon future:*
www.cana.net.au/Policies_positions/TurningDowntheHeatWEB.pdf

Renewable Energy

Both these reports look at the real options for a renewable energy future:

- www.energyblueprint.info/
- www.cana.net.au/documents/25_RenewableEnergyforAustraliaby2020report_2007.pdf

Refresh Australia! www.sao.clriq.org.au/refresh_australia/