Roadmap to Renewables

LABOR’S PLAN TO TRANSITION TO RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
2015 was the hottest year on record globally.

Continued increases in temperature will have huge impacts for the Territory - for our economy, our lifestyle, our quality of life and our unique and spectacular natural environment.

We are already seeing the effects of climate change on our mangroves and coral reefs across Northern Australia.

Around the world responsible and smart countries, citizens and businesses are rapidly changing the way they invest, live and produce and consume energy.

They recognise that failure to act on climate change threatens the wellbeing of every nation and society on earth.

They also recognise the enormous economic opportunities of transitioning to a low carbon economy.

Territory Labor has outlined some of the steps a Labor Government would take to combat climate change – from including climate impacts in environmental assessments, to investing in research and innovation, and importantly, employing indigenous knowledge to help understand and adapt to the changes in our ecosystems.

A Territory Labor Government will provide the vision and leadership, the long term plan, and the stability and certainty to implement an energy policy which transitions from fossil fuels to renewables in a way that grows the Territory and creates jobs.

Labor will back the ingenuity and drive of Territory businesses, researchers, families and communities who understand that this transition is the right thing to do for our children and our environment, and also the smart thing to do for jobs and our economy.

Michael Gunner
Leader of the Opposition
VISION AND LEADERSHIP.

A Territory Labor Government will adopt a target of 50% renewable energy by 2030.

We will ensure the efforts across Government are coordinated to achieve this target.

This policy certainty will allow business to invest and create jobs, provide savings for consumers, businesses and Government, and ensure we play our part in reducing carbon emissions.

It will also diversify power supply and provide better energy security for consumers and businesses.

The CLP have no target or policy for renewable energy.

We will work with PowerWater, Territory Generation and Jacana to deliver this target.

The hundreds of dedicated staff, many with world leading knowledge expertise have been seriously let down by the incompetence and the failure of leadership of the current CLP Government.

Labor understands what an asset this workforce is to the Territory, the desire by many of them to employ these skills towards a transition to a renewable energy future, and will work with them in partnership and with respect to achieve 50% by 2030.

LONG TERM PLAN.

A Labor Government will utilise Territory expertise to develop a Roadmap to Renewables to meet the 50% target.

The previous Labor Government began the Territory's journey towards a renewable energy future through the creation of the Green Energy Taskforce. This taskforce produced two reports looking at the costs and feasibility of renewable technology for the Territory and also low emissions opportunities in remote communities.

Unfortunately much of this work has been ignored by the current CLP Government, which has been more interested in running irrational and dishonest scare campaigns against renewable energy.
Labor will commission a new Road Map to Renewables report which will set out the options to achieve the target of 50% by 2030.

The report, to be delivered in 2017, will:

- Be delivered by a team of experts led by local Territory renewable energy expert and businessman Alan Langworthy* who was instrumental in the earlier Green Energy Task Force;
- Refresh the findings and advice from the first two Green Energy Taskforce reports with regard to advances in technology and the regulatory and commercial environments over the last six years;
- Provide advice on the technology, regulatory and financial issues and options to meet the future energy needs of the Territory whilst reaching the 50% renewables target;
- Explore options to ensure low income, remote and renting households can participate in the transition to renewables;
- Provide advice on the best way to attract investment in and job creation from, the transition to renewables; and
- Be informed by wide consultation with Territorians.

Establish a Renewable Energy Unit with the Department of the Chief Minister to provide expert advice on the technological, regulatory, financial and legal requirements to achieve the target.

Renewable energy technology, financing and regulation is a fast moving and complex area of public policy.

It’s therefore crucial that efforts to achieve the 50% target by 2030 are coordinated in a consistent manner across Government and are the product of well-considered, expert advice.

The Renewable Energy Unit will coordinate this advice and provide the government with the most up to date information on renewable technology. They will ensure the plan to achieve 50% by 2030 can respond the dynamic technology, regulatory and consumer lead changes in this area.

Provide ongoing research and development funds for CDU and the Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT).

The Northern Territory has produced world leading research and researchers in renewable energy. We need to continue this tradition but also do a better job at ensuring these breakthroughs create jobs right here in the Territory.

A Labor Government will provide support for this research effort and ensure it plays an integral role in the plan to reach the 50% by 2030 target.
PRICE STABILITY AND INVESTMENT CERTAINTY.

Labor will ensure PowerWater, Territory Generation and Jacana remain 100% publicly owned.

Public ownership of these important assets gives the Territory a strategic lever to smoothly manage the transition to renewables.

Labor will ensure these valuable public assets remain 100% in the hands of Territorians.

Guarantee that any power price rises are capped at CPI for the first term of a Labor Government.

Stable power prices are crucial for business and investor certainty and also provide comfort of mind for Territory families still reeling from the massive increases in power prices under the CLP Government.

This price stability provides a platform to smoothly transition to renewables while also contributing to the attractiveness of the Territory as a place to live and work.

Ensure gas continues to provide stable base and peak load power during the transition to renewables.

Gas provides the Territory with a great platform to transition to renewables.

The Territory has long term gas contracts for the provision of power and gas will continue to provide peak and base load power under a Labor Government as we transition to renewables.

Guarantee the 1 for 1 (Net Metering) feed in tariff for solar remains while the Road map to Renewables plan is developed.

Labor will guarantee the feed in tariff remains unchanged while the Road map to Renewables plan is developed.

This will ensure households and the solar industry have certainty in the short to medium term.

Any changes to the tariff in the future will be done in full consultation with industry and the community and be in accord with the Governments long term transitional plans.
REAL INVESTMENT IN RENEWABLES.

Inspiring the next generation of renewable energy innovators.

Labor will invest $5m to fund the installation of roof top solar to a wide range of school buildings across the Territory.

The funding will be tied to educational programs teaching children the about new solar technology.

These solar panel systems will be inclusive of monitoring and measurement equipment and lead to innovative school based educational projects.

Such projects will give our next generation of engineers and scientists the inspiration to advance renewable energy solutions.


Labor will invest $5m to further the development of Alice Springs as the Centre for Excellence for Solar Energy. This investment will be used to leverage a further $15M of private sector and commonwealth funding with a focus on project activities including:

1. Grid Integration: advanced control strategies for a new generation grid with large amounts of renewables

2. New Business Models: Assessment and implementation of innovative private sector business models for renewables

3. Regulatory Frameworks: evaluation of alternative regulatory frameworks to support next generation grids/power systems

4. Showcasing: bringing together the world class knowledge frameworks for solar technology implementation and showcasing them to the world
## COSTINGS

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*Note- this expenditure is expected to save schools up to 40% of their energy costs.

* Alan Langworthy is a recipient of the Clunies Ross Medal from the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) for his work in renewable energy integration, and a former NT Senior Australian of the Year. He is a member of the Territory Labor Party and has advised both CLP and ALP Governments on renewable energy policy. Alan is currently a consultant in the renewable energy sector.