

Australia can become a renewable energy superpower: the facts

After Russia and Saudi Arabia, Australia is the biggest exporter of coal and gas globally.

Real action to tackle climate change means our government must rapidly shift Australia away from coal and gas exports.

The good news is Australia can replace and grow the revenue and jobs from coal and gas exports with clean exports by 2040.

New research shows these renewable export opportunities could generate \$89 billion and 395,000 new jobs for Australians in 2040.

A large number of jobs could be in regions that currently employ a high percentage of coal and gas workers, regions like the Hunter Valley, Central QLD, Newcastle, Illawarra, Latrobe- Gippsland as well as Regional WA and Regional SA.

We need to act decisively. Climate damage is harming Australians and we're not the only nation in the world with the natural advantages and know-how to become a clean energy superpower.

We need genuine national leadership to secure our future.

The solutions to climate change are here and they match the scale of the problem. Australia can keep our position as an energy export superpower by replacing coal and gas exports with renewable energy and green steel, hydrogen and aluminium manufactured with renewable energy.

This week Fortescue Future Industries (FFI) announced they will build the world's largest green energy hydrogen manufacturing facility in Central Queensland. The \$115 million manufacturing facility will likely double the world's green hydrogen production capacity and create thousands of jobs for Queenslanders for years to come.

We need to make a choice - should our governments continue to fund polluting industries like coal and gas that are on their way out or renewable energy that helps futureproof the economy and keep climate change in check? We have to choose where we direct our people, skills and energy, and taxpayer money.



Useful talking points

Some helpful ways to talk about the opportunities of renewable energy exports.

“There can be a bright future ahead for communities like ours, we just need the government to be honest with us, and make a plan.”

“Mine workers are adaptable people, communities like ours are ready to make the shift, if we have the right help.”

“We need to make a choice – should our governments continue to fund polluting industries like coal and gas that are on their way out or renewable energy that helps future-proof the economy and keep climate change in check?”

We have to choose where we direct our people, skills and energy, and taxpayer money.”



Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com.

Transition FAQs

How are we going to transition our fossil fuel industry workers into this new industry?

- The report is calling for a new \$5 billion fund managed by a new energy transitions authority which would be made up of stakeholders like government, industry unions & First Nations peoples' to help manage the impacts of transition on workers and regions with carbon-intensive industries.
- The report shows there are 395,000 jobs in renewable energy exports, many in areas that currently house carbon-intensive industries.
- Many of the new jobs will be highly skilled mining and manufacturing roles.

What training scheme should be made available?

- The report is calling for a new fund managed by a new energy transitions authority which would be made up of stakeholders like government, industry unions & First Nations peoples' to help manage the impacts of transition on workers and regions with carbon-intensive industries.
- The report also shows that by doubling down on investment in renewable energy related research and education, we can train the workforce that will be required to scale new renewable industries globally.

Manufacturing solar panels isn't labor intensive, and doesn't absorb a lot of workers. What other jobs will there be?

- More than half of the new jobs created by renewable exports are in mining, manufacturing and professional services, and are stable highly skilled jobs.

How do we ensure the living standard of workers in the mining sector won't fall drastically with the transition?

- The report calls for a transition authority to help manage the transition and ensure communities benefit from the opportunities.
- Many of the new jobs created by renewables export industries will be highly skilled mining and manufacturing jobs with salaries comparable (and in some analysis higher) with many mining jobs.
- The report shows there are 395,000 jobs in renewable energy exports, most/many in areas that currently house carbon-intensive industries.