



# 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 Banks, 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 by<sup>1</sup>, and up to 106 people needing work for 1 entry level job.<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>3</sup>

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.

**“At present, so many people have lost their jobs. We can't expect to create a fair society unless the government has innovative ideas to create jobs for people who need them.”**

Judith, Reid resident

## 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,<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup>

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.<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup> It's clear why: they're quieter, more reliable, cheaper to run than conventional cars, and could reduce Australian emissions by 6%.<sup>9</sup>

Unfortunately, many people considering buying electric cars are worried about how and where they'll charge it.<sup>10</sup> 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',<sup>11</sup> 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 BANKS?

### RESTORE PARKS AND WETLANDS

#### A Clean Recovery could employ more Banks residents:

In projects helping to restore and conserve our nature areas, like the Georges River. By rehabilitating wetlands and planting new trees and grasses, we can create thriving spaces that help absorb carbon emissions, last the test of time and create healthy recreation opportunities.

By building more "car free" cycleways to provide low impact transport and improved health safely for all ages.

Many underutilised areas including ribbons of grass beside transmission lines and pipes provide opportunities as does traffic calming in local roads used as "rat runs".



## REDUCE HEALTH IMPACTS FROM HAZARDOUS SMOKE

Raging bushfires and “hot burn” RFS hazard reduction have produced dangerous levels of smoke in communities impacting vulnerable people and creating longer term health risks for children and others.<sup>12</sup> Wildlife has suffered terribly.

More jobs could be produced in Banks by creating Cultural Burn Coordinators to manage and train volunteers in Aboriginal “cool burn” Cultural Burning to minimise smoke, reduce weeds, reduce the likelihood of fires being accelerated into the tree canopy, and greatly reduce the destruction of wildlife<sup>13,14</sup>

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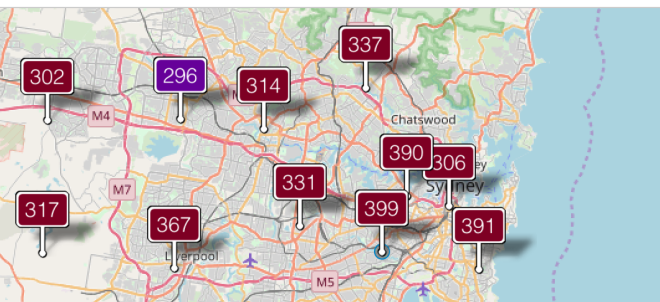
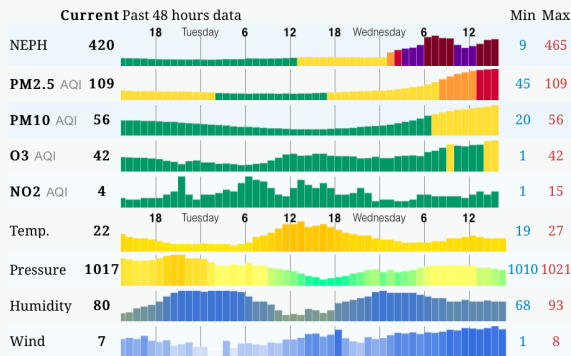


# 399

## Hazardous

Updated on Wed. 16:00

Primary pollutant: neph



## INSTALL SOLAR PANELS ON SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

Solar panels produce clean power locally. Students at Panania North and ten other schools in the Canterbury Bankstown area have raised funds and put panels on their schools.<sup>15</sup> Subsidies to supplement student fundraising and to support panels on other buildings in the community will create more jobs and more local clean power.

## BUILD MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND SUPPORT RENTERS

Higher costs of living and housing in Sydney are compounded by our struggling economy.

Incentives to build and provide more affordable and public housing creates jobs, boosts the economy, supports families and reduces the high medical and other costs to the community generated by the vulnerable and homeless.

Support for victims of no fault evictions could create jobs in Banks. Victims have to reestablish their homes and sometimes relocate children to different schools while struggling to find well paid work.

## PROMOTE AND SUPPORT COMMUNITY GARDENS

Community gardens improve health and wellbeing, strengthen community social connections, have a local cooling effect as the climate heats up and helps reestablish depleted bee and insect populations.

More jobs could be created in Banks by supporting the community to develop formal community gardens in public areas and less formal gardens elsewhere e.g. grassed areas in local streets.



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