



Australian Government

Australian Government response to the
Senate Select Committee into Jobs for the Future in
Regional Areas

Report

MAY 2024

Response

Recommendation 1 (Greens)

The committee recommends that the Australian Energy Market Commission:

- develop a model for the establishment of renewable energy zones;
- review the current regulatory frameworks to ensure they are fit-for-purpose for clean energy exports (via high-voltage direct current cables, hydrogen and ammonia); and
- ensure reform of the existing marginal loss factor regime to ensure investor certainty for renewable projects.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 2 (Greens)

The committee recommends that the Australian Government commit to an energy policy to provide certainty for the market to invest in and enable cheap, abundant, clean energy to restore our competitive advantages and attract manufacturing and heavy industry back to Australia.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 3 (Greens)

The committee recommends that the Australian and state governments invest to create more ongoing jobs for forest and land management, reef restoration and national parks management.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 4 (Greens)

The committee recommends that the Australian Government explore the most appropriate ways in which younger workers with limited skills working in industries that are likely to close could be afforded free training and skill development to enable the transition into alternative employment.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 5 (Greens)

The committee recommends that state governments work with regional communities and employers to ensure the TAFE system is appropriately placed and adequately resourced to deliver the skills and training to match future employment demand.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 6 (Greens)

The committee recommends that the Australian Government support regional communities to develop local transition plans by establishing an independent Regional Transition Authority that would:

- provide financial and 'in-kind' support provided to bring together industry, governments, unions and community groups in regions undergoing economic transformation;
- steer and facilitate local decision-making on what jobs and industries regional communities want to attract, how they intend to make it happen and what resources and timelines are required; and
- collate and disseminate final outcomes and reports for each region and ensure cross-pollination for other regions through previous or current work with other communities.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 7 (Greens)

The committee recommends that the \$1,217 million that has been cut from ARENA's budget since it was established be restored and re-profiled to deepen and broaden their hydrogen and bioenergy strategies.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 8 (Greens)

The committee recommends that the Australian Government acknowledge that regional economies will not transition through market forces alone. Accordingly, the committee recommends that Australian Government reduce private investor risk in regional areas by playing a leadership role in:

- providing quality digital communications;
- local procurement rules for infrastructure;
- creating markets where regional communities can benefit;
- fostering an encouraging regulatory environment; and
- facilitating co-investment.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 9 (Greens)

The committee recommends that all levels of government in Australia create markets for recycled materials through procurement policies, mandatory recycling targets and mandatory product stewardships.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 10 (Greens)

The committee recommends the Australian Government implement a national fuel standard that mandates a minimum level of ethanol for aviation and marine fuels and the Department of Defence commits to procurement policies and targets for biofuel use in its materiel and operations.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 11 (Greens)

The committee recommends that the Australian Government:

- develop and adopt a consistent methodology for carbon sequestration in forests;
- seek access for Australian farmers, land managers and forestry operations to sell carbon abatement into global carbon markets that farmers and landholders can use to generate income streams; and
- educate landholders on the economic opportunities that can come from carbon abatement on their land through reforestation and land management.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 12 (Greens)

The committee recommends that the Australian Government introduce a requirement for a proportion of critical mineral ores, including lithium ore, mined in Australia to be processed and value-added in Australia to enable the development of domestic battery manufacturing.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 13 (Greens)

The committee recommends that the Australian and state governments reduce their reliance on contractors and divert this funding to create permanent public services jobs in regional areas.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 14 (Greens)

The committee recommends that the Australian Government work collaboratively with aluminium smelter owners and prospective investors to explore options for adopting technologies that would increase the viability of aluminium smelting and allow smelters to provide demand response and electricity grid stability.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 1 (ALP)

That the Commonwealth government implement a coherent national energy policy that will provide investment certainty, reduce energy prices, credibly reduce Australia's emissions and provide opportunity to all Australians for full economic participation.

Response

NOTED

The Government notes this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.