

# **CHEAPER, CLEANER POWER FOR HOMES AND BUSINESSES**

## **Helping communities rapidly transition to address the climate emergency**

Electricity in Australia is too dirty and expensive.

Gas in our homes is causing asthma, and power bills are through the roof.

The Greens will drive the renewable revolution, help households and small businesses get off gas and create a not for profit electricity retailer.

With cheap, clean power, everyone will have lower costs, and clean affordable power.

### **THE GREENS WILL:**

- ▲ **Support households and small businesses to get off gas through grants of up to \$25k and loans up to \$100k**
- ▲ **Kickstart a household battery boom, with grants of up to \$10k and loans up to \$50k**
- ▲ **Work with state and territories to ban gas in new housing developments**
- ▲ **Create a non-profit publicly owned retailer to push down power bills**

## PAYING FOR OUR PLAN

By making billionaires and big corporations pay their fair share of tax and winding back handouts to big polluters, we can build a better life for all of us.

1 in 3 big corporations pays no tax and many big corporations and billionaires send their profits offshore tax free.

The Greens will tax billionaires with a new 'billionaires tax', require big corporations making excessive profits to pay a 'corporate super-profits tax' and axe billions of dollars in handouts to the coal, oil and gas giants that are driving the climate crisis.

These measures have all been costed by the independent Parliamentary Budget Office.

When big corporations and billionaires pay their fair share, everyone can have the services they need for a better life.

## GETTING HOMES AND SMALL BUSINESS OFF THE GAS

Natural gas is methane and a fossil fuel, and is Australia's fastest growing source of greenhouse pollution. When methane escapes the hundreds of thousands of kilometres of pipes, rather than be burned in power plants and boilers, it is nearly 100 times more polluting than carbon dioxide.<sup>1</sup>

Not only is gas more polluting than clean electricity, but it is increasingly more expensive too. While gas in Australia used to be cheap (about \$4 a GJ), the creation of the LNG export industry has permanently linked domestic gas prices with the international market.<sup>2</sup> That's why

<sup>1</sup>Climate Council - Kicking the Gas Habit (2021)  
<https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Kicking-the-Gas-Habit-How-Gas-is-Harming-our-Health.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>Grattan Institute - Flame Out (2020)  
<https://grattan.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Flame-out-Grattan-report.pdf>

gas today has more than doubled in price and has spiked much higher in recent months.

Perhaps worst of all, gas in the home has been identified as being responsible for myriad health problems, including an appallingly high 12% of the health burden of childhood asthma.<sup>3</sup>

But alternatives exist. It's time to support homes and businesses to electrify.

The Greens will provide a series of grants and loans to households and small businesses to help them kick gas to the curb. For households, we will offer a grant of up to \$10,000 (\$25,000 for small businesses) and low interest loans of up to \$20,000 (\$100,000 for small businesses) in order to replace gas-fired boilers, water heaters and cooktops with electric alternatives.

The grant component is limited to 20% of the total cost of the replacement project, but can be

<sup>3</sup> Climate Council (2021)

increased to 50% for a household if it agrees to disconnect from the gas grid entirely within six months. The Greens will also work with state and territory governments to ban gas connections for new housing developments.

## LAUNCH A BATTERY BOOM

Australia is on the cusp of another renewable technology explosion. Just as solar photovoltaic capacity increased by a scale of 100 over the 2010's (0.2 GW in 2010 to over 20 GW today), household batteries will soon be a billion dollar industry.

Small-scale batteries provide a huge number of benefits to their owners. They allow more consumption of your own solar energy, they allow households to charge up cheap energy in the middle of the day and then avoid higher peak energy prices in the evening peak, and they can keep your home or business running during black and brown outs.

But just like solar, batteries will continue to need a degree of short-term support in order to reach that tipping point in price where subsidies are no longer needed.

The Greens will make batteries more affordable for homes and businesses by subsidising each battery by up to \$5,000 for households (\$10,000 for small businesses), and providing up to \$10,000 further in low interest loans (\$50,000 for small businesses), with the grant itself having a maximum value of 50% of the total cost of the installation.

With subsidies of this scale in place, a battery can then become a profitable investment for millions of households and businesses, kicking

off a boom and creating thousands of jobs in battery installation and manufacturing.

## CHEAPER POWER BILLS

Energy costs are one of the largest cost-of-living pressures experienced by households in Australia, and energy poverty is a lived reality for far too many.

We also know that the future of Australian business and industry will be rooted in having access to the cheapest zero carbon power in the world.

But for too long the big power companies have exploited their customers, relying on the complexity of the electricity market and limited competition to make massive profits from their retail divisions.

As part of our vision for a transformed Snowy Hydro, the Greens will retool the retail division of Snowy to create Power Australia, a 100% publicly owned non-profit electricity retail corporation. Power Australia will offer all Australian businesses at-cost electricity, without the profit seeking and wasted resources in marketing costs of the big retailers.

And while no one will be forced to contract with Power Australia, the fact that any household or business can move to the cheaper non-profit Power Australia plan, will pressure the other big retailers to either demonstrate value to their customers or make cuts to their own costs too.