

# SAFE CLIMATE, SECURE & AFFORDABLE ENERGY

The NT is highly vulnerable to climate change, with the Top End [projected to be unlivable by 2070](#) due to blistering, humid heat and the Red Centre already vulnerable to scorching summers and bushfires. Instead of tackling these problems, Labor & the CLP are pursuing a relentless expansion of fossil fuels in the NT, backed by the gas industry - some of their biggest donors.

The NT Government [government lobbied for a \\$3.5 billion subsidy](#) for the Middle Arm Industrial precinct from the Federal Government, a toxic project that will put our climate and health at risk.

But it doesn't have to be this way. The Territory has the potential not just to rebuild, but to rapidly expand our economy by investing in renewables. This will meet the needs of current and future generations of Territorians, while also delivering a fair and just transition for existing energy industry workers and keeping electricity in public hands.

Instead of lobbying for handouts to the gas industry, could instead use that public money to invest in a renewables industry that would power our economy. Just like South Australia who have just signed a Renewable Energy Transformation Agreement with the Federal Government, who will underwrite their ambitions to become [100% renewable by 2027](#).

## **The Greens will use the \$1.5 billion slated for Middle Arm to invest in:**

- A 150MW/600MWh big battery for the Darwin-Katherine electricity system
- A big battery for the Mparntwe/Alice Springs grid
- Local training & support, to build the renewables workforce & help workers to transition from gas jobs
- The prioritisation and proper funding of Aboriginal community controlled renewables projects in remote communities.
- Solar, insulation and air-conditioning in every public housing dwelling
- Solar installation grants to every low-income house
- 0% interest loans to home-owners to install solar
- Honouring the 26c/kilowatt hour rate for people who installed solar under Labor's grandfathered scheme, until 2028.
- Developing an overarching NT Climate adaptation strategy, and implementing it with urgency.

**The Greens are committed to tackling the economic & climate crises by building a stronger, more resilient, and fairer Territory for everyone.**

# **1: Halt the Gas expansion**

## **The Greens will:**

### **A) Ban fracking in the NT**

Territorians have been telling the NT government that fracking is [“not safe, not trusted and not wanted”](#)<sup>1</sup> for more than a decade. The Greens will ban hydraulic fracturing.

### **B) Stop Middle Arm- to protect our harbour, air quality & health**

The proposed Middle Arm industrial hub is a [disaster for the health](#) of Darwin and Palmerston, and for the climate. The Larrakia people have not given consent for this project to go ahead.

A petrochemical plant in Darwin Harbour could lead to a four fold increase in [industrial cancer rates](#).

Gas processing at Middle Arm would enable [new gas projects](#) in the Beetaloo Basin and Barossa gas field at a time when the [International Panel on Climate Change](#) has made it clear that we need to stop new coal and gas projects to avoid climate catastrophe.

### **C) Stop the use of public money for fossil fuel projects**

Public money should benefit the community – not be given as handouts to big gas corporations. The NT Greens would redirect money slated for the toxic Middle Arm Industrial hub and other polluting projects and use this money to invest in things that make people’s lives better, in line with the expert recommendations in the [Recharging the Territory report](#).

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## **2: Transition**

With decades of poor policy decisions by Labor & CLP governments, and the outsized influence of gas corporations on our politics, the NT is being left behind in the renewables revolution. In [2023, only 6.6%](#) of the NT energy needs were met with renewables, and poor planning has left our [grid vulnerable to blackouts](#).

But we haven’t missed the boat, there’s never been a more urgent time to be investing in renewables and battery storage, making energy more reliable and more affordable for Territorians.

The NT is one of the sunniest places in the country - yet we have half as much rooftop solar as each of our neighbouring states of Queensland, WA and SA.

Research by the CSIRO and the Australian Energy Market Operator shows [renewables are the cheapest form of energy](#) available.

We can take decisive action on energy security, including prioritising community owned generation and storage, and take the power back into public hands!

## **The Greens will:**

### **A) Rapidly transition to renewables, making sure nobody gets left behind.**

We know we need to transition to renewable energy, but if we keep dragging our feet, we'll be leaving thousands of workers in the lurch. We need a clever transition to get Territorians into jobs that suit them in the renewables sector.

The research supporting a transition has been done, but the government isn't listening. The NT Greens will commission an update to 2017's '[Roadmap to Renewables](#)' report so we can safely map out our plan to meet our 100% renewable target.

### **B) Build big batteries to stabilise the grid, allow stranded solar farms to come online and lower the cost of living.**

Investment in storage is essential to securing our energy future. Currently a Darwin-Katherine Big Battery project (DKBESS1 & 2) is underway, but falling well behind schedule, and at least 45MW short of our energy needs.

To secure the grid and cheaper electricity for all, we need a battery that is big enough to do the job. The Greens will invest in a 150MW/600MWh system which could properly support the needs of the grid.

### **C) Invest in energy security with renewables in remote communities, under Aboriginal community control.**

Power poverty is having a huge impact on people in communities who are often reliant on diesel generators - contributing to [poor health outcomes](#) and deepening economic disadvantage. Community members should directly reap the rewards of cheap renewable energy. NT Labor have promised 70% renewables in 72 remote communities, [but are only 25%](#) of the way to their goal, with only one pilot project completed since 2019.

Industry leaders like the First Nations Clean Energy Network are already doing the work to ease the cost of living and secure energy supply in these communities.

The Greens will back them in with the funding and capacity they need.

### **D) Install solar, insulation and air-conditioning in every public housing dwelling in the NT.**

We need to make homes more comfortable, safer and reduce energy bills to help ease the cost of living for those struggling the most.

### **E) Make sure every home in the NT can afford solar.**

Everyone deserves access to cheap power and clean energy. The Greens will offer generous solar installation grants for low income households and zero interest loans for homeowners to incentivise solar uptake.

Many people installed solar under Labor's old tariff scheme (26c per kilowatt hour), which was reduced on July 1, 2022. We would honour the 26c/kilowatt hour rate for people who installed solar before that deal lapsed, for a further two years. By that time, all those who signed up during the scheme should have paid off their panels (an average of 4 years).

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### 3. Adaptation

Communities in the NT are already feeling the effects of climate change. We've seen communities like Kalkarindji and Daguragu evacuated twice in one year due to dangerous floods, creating chaos as families were relocated hundreds of kilometres away to Darwin.

We've seen massive fires in the [Barkly](#) burning an area 13 times the size of the ACT. In less than 100 years all of [Kakadu's floodplains](#) are predicted to be under saltwater. In Australia, [heatwaves kill more people](#) than any other natural hazard, they are becoming ever more frequent. The NT's hot climate is also increasingly [driving away professionals](#) from critical sectors like health and education, especially in remote areas.

We know these things will just get worse. NT Labor committed to a climate change adaptation strategy, but we're yet to see any progress on this essential work.

#### **The NT Greens will:**

**Develop an overarching climate change adaptation strategy for the NT that focuses on:**

- A) Consulting widely across sectors, our urban and rural communities, government, peak organisation and business
  - B) Identifying key climate risks to our communities, our economy, our infrastructure and our environment.
  - C) Analysing risks and impacts, costing adaptation measures.
  - D) Identifying the best ways to use funding, prioritise actions, advocate for federal money
  - E) Ensuring those most vulnerable to heatwaves are supported to adapt to a hotter climate, including housing upgrades to improve energy efficiency and ensuring access to reliable and free air-conditioned spaces. And that nobody misses out on the economic benefit of energy transition.
  - F) Ensure consideration of climate risks is embedded in planning for all large projects that include significant public investment.
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## **4. Parliamentary Inquiry: Reforming the NT electricity sector**

For many years there has been concern around the way in which our energy is produced, delivered and costed.

The community has consistently raised questions over the roles and functioning of the NT government 'trading corporations' that provide and regulate our energy: Power and Water Corporation; Jacana Energy, and Territory Generation. Ten years ago, a [Parliamentary Inquiry](#) resulted in the then CLP government splitting Power and Water into these three corporations. Their justification was to improve competition, but they did it with minimal consultation and [without a cost-benefit analysis](#).

The winners are big energy-intensive industries and overseas or interstate-owned corporations, while any cost savings or 'efficiencies' are usually at the expense of our community and environment.

### **The NT Greens will:**

**Establish a Parliamentary Inquiry into the production, regulation and delivery of energy in NT, including:**

- A) Assessment of how the 2014 reforms have performed on their objectives and met environmental, economic, social justice and democratic outcomes.
- B) Clarification of the roles and functions of Power and Water Corporation; Jacana Energy; Territory Generation; the NT Utilities Commission; and their portfolio Ministers;
- C) Changes needed to ensure:
  - transparency and accountability, including in relation to long term supply contracts and prices;
  - removal of corporate conflicts of interest, duplication and competing purposes;
  - equitable and just provision of services including to regional and remote communities;
  - the prioritisation of renewables and low cost clean energy;
  - clear, efficient and aligned governance and delivery structure.

**If you want an end to new gas & a transition to solar  
that benefits the community & not big corporations -  
Vote 1 Greens.**