



Investment for
Australia's Post
Carbon Economy



18 April 2024
JOINT STATEMENT

AUSTRALIA'S LEADING ENERGY INDUSTRY AND INVESTMENT PLAYERS JOIN FORCES TO BACK PM ALBANESE'S FUTURE MADE IN AUSTRALIA

Three weeks out from the 2024 Federal Budget, leading investor groups and energy industry peak bodies have urged the Federal Government to stay the course on its newly-announced landmark [Future Made in Australia Act](#) against mounting criticism and commit the ambitious strategically targetted national-interest budget support required to underpin private investor and business confidence in Australia's once-in-a-century decarbonisation opportunity.

This will position Australia to leverage its comparative advantages in renewable energy, critical minerals, strategic metals and cleantech supply chains, helping to strategically pivot our export profile and secure our economic prosperity, energy independence and sovereign capabilities. The government's move comes as advanced economies the world over commit unprecedented state investment into energy transition.

Marilyne Crestias, Policy Director of the [Clean Energy Investor Group \(CEIG\)](#), representing developers and investors with 16GW of installed renewables capacity across 76 power stations, a combined portfolio value of ~\$38 billion, and a project pipeline of >46GW, said:

"CEIG welcomes the Prime Minister's vision for a 'Future Made in Australia'. Australia needs ambitious policy direction like this to reduce transition risks as the Australian economy and the world decarbonises. The Future Made in Australia Act has the potential to unlock significant domestic and international private capital including through the national superannuation system.

"Australian investors also welcome the long term visibility and certainty of the suite of related decarbonisation measures the government has put in place including the Capacity Investment Scheme and the aligned building of firmed renewable energy offtake demand. We applaud the

government's intention as part of the Act to establish a senior 'concierge' to allow strategic, whole of government centralisation to accelerate and coordinate decision-making and de-risk clean energy proposal developments."

Kane Thornton, Chief Executive of the [Clean Energy Council](#), the peak body for the clean energy industry in Australia, said:

"The announcement of the *Future Made in Australia Act* shows that we have a Federal Government that recognises the imperative of placing renewables at the centre of economic reform, to build a stronger and more prosperous future for our economy and our planet.

"The United States *Inflation Reduction Act* has completely reshaped the global energy transformation as major economies compete for capital, equipment, resources and skilled labour. It is time for Australia to step up and prioritise smart policy and support in this new era, leveraging our competitive advantages and abundance of renewable energy resources."

Dr Saul Griffith, energy transition thought leader & Chief Scientist at [Rewiring Australia](#) said:

"We applaud the Albanese Government's commitment to Australia's clean energy future with the *Future Made In Australia Act*. This signals a meaningful government investment in renewable energy, placing it in the centre of our economy.

"We need the government to coordinate Australian public and private investment in the processing of critical minerals and development of technologies from home-grown innovators in green metals. This will leverage Australia's competitive advantage as a clean energy superpower and ensure the profits do not flow overseas.

"This new legislation will put Australia in step with other countries already investing in their own futures, creating jobs and competition within their own economies.

"It's a great opportunity for Australian households. What we saw in the US with the *Inflation Reduction Act* was government investment to allow more homes to access renewable energy, electric vehicles, household batteries and other projects. This is our chance to build the market that decarbonises our economy, giving more Australians access to rooftop solar and the ability to electrify their homes.

"We look forward to working with the government on what this legislation will look like."

John Grimes, CEO of the [Smart Energy Council](#), the peak independent national body for the smart energy industry, named a 2023 Top 100 Green Energy Player by The Australian, said:

"The *Future Made in Australia Act* is hugely exciting. This is exactly the sort of vision that the Smart Energy Council has been looking for.

Australians can make things here. We can produce the cheapest electricity right here using solar and wind, and as a result produce some of the cheapest products in the world. We can produce green iron, green ammonia, refined lithium, high purity low emissions alumina, aluminium and graphite, right here in Australia.

Australia can play a key role in the solar and battery manufacturing supply chains, to build domestic expertise in firming renewables infrastructure critical to powering value-add to our critical minerals.

For too long Australia has been a dig and ship country. In the future we can value-add to those minerals and export zero-carbon iron and other products to the world.

The Smart Energy Council is looking to the federal budget to lay the foundations for Australia to be a renewables and critical minerals superpower, and we look forward to the details."

Heidi Lee, CEO of [Beyond Zero Emissions](#), a leading independent think tank focused on solutions to accelerate Australia towards a prosperous zero-emissions future, said:

"The *Future Made in Australia Act* is excellent news for Australian households who will see the cost of energy fall as we bring online new renewables at scale, and for local businesses to sell their products into the clean economy.

"Communities in regional Australia stand to benefit from the investment in affordable and reliable clean energy, and modern infrastructure that will link our resource-rich areas to clean industry clusters built around our established ports and smelters. This Act will see jobs and prosperity flow to places that need it most.

"It's fantastic to see Australia step off the sidelines of the global clean energy race, and set up our communities to capitalise on our critical minerals by manufacturing solar panels, wind turbines with recyclable blades, batteries, heat pumps and parts for electric vehicles. Renewable energy industrial precincts across our regions will build critical mass, synergies and common-user infrastructure bring Australian regions - like at Kwinana and Gladstone - into the global race to build zero emissions industries of the future at speed and scale.

"We're calling for investment, national coordination, production credits and equity funding in strategic clean technologies to catalyse onshore manufacturing in the May Federal Budget."

Tim Buckley, director of independent think tank [Climate Energy Finance](#) and former MD of investment bank Citigroup, said:

"This week's announcement of \$585m of support to QLD's [Alpha HPA](#) for production of low-emissions high purity alumina used in batteries and semiconductors, and to [Renascor Resources](#) in South Australia for the production of purified graphite used in batteries, is a downpayment on the potential the *Future Made in Australia Act* foreshadows for Australia

to value-add our resources and secure cleantech supply chains. The critical importance of global supply chain diversification is clear, noting China's recent ban on graphite exports.

"We strongly support the Federal Government's view that globally, state intervention *is* the new competition. All major economies are massively upscaling public funding for strategically important renewable energy and cleantech, as we have seen with the \$1 trillion Inflation Reduction Act's "green new deal" in the US. We can't afford to 'sit out' the accelerating global transition. The Act puts Australia into the race. The strategic budget support flagged under the Act is just the investment signal and de-risking that private capital needs to flood into domestic zero-emissions economic opportunities.

"This ambitious and visionary Act sets up Treasurer Chalmers' May 2024 Budget for the speed and scale of investment needed to position Australia in the global net zero economy and to reap the unprecedented employment, investment, trade and geostrategic benefits.

"We have world-leading reserves of strategic critical minerals and metals key to the global energy transformation, and the abundant sun and wind to power processing and manufacturing onshore. We urge the government to hold its nerve and deliver an ambitious and coordinated package of budget incentives enabling Australia to pivot from our historic overdependence on fossil fuels to a zero-emissions global trade and investment leader."

Blair Palese, founder of the [Climate Capital Forum](#), named a 2023 Top 100 Green Energy Player by The Australian, said:

"Prime Minister Albanese's *Future Made in Australia Act* provides the vision for how we can become a leader in the global race to decarbonise. The Climate Capital Forum, a network of investors, decarbonising businesses and climate finance experts, believes the Act provides the plan we need to ensure Australia can capitalise at scale on our incredible advantages to be a player in the low carbon market.

With affordable and abundant renewable energy, a wealth of rare earth minerals and innovative businesses keen to succeed, what the nation has lacked is the political leadership to incentivise, de-risk and modernise our economy and grab this once-in-a-generation opportunity. With its Future Made in Australia Act, the federal government has committed to stepping up to build our future economy."

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