



## Federal Pre-Budget Submission

### Deadline 29th January 2021

#### Make a submission here:

<https://consult.treasury.gov.au/budget-policy-division/2021-22-pre-budget-submissions/>

#### Suggested content for your submission:

##### MAKE IT PERSONAL:

- **Introduce yourself** — as a parent, where you live and anything else you want to mention. Include your professional capacity if you feel it is relevant to this submission — e.g. you are a teacher, child care worker or work in the solar industry, etc.

##### STATE WHAT YOU ARE ASKING FOR:

- **Say something like:** In the May Federal budget I would like the government to fund solar and batteries for every school and early childhood centre in Australia that does not yet have solar, or that has inadequate solar or no battery.

##### MAKE IT FACTUAL:

- **Fact:** Creating a network of schools and early childhood centres with solar and batteries would provide the equivalent dispatchable clean electricity as a new power station, as was proposed to replace the Liddell Power station in NSW.
- **Fact:** Schools and early childhood centres are the perfect settings for solar and batteries because they are closed during many peak electricity demand events, including on weekends, summer holidays and hot evenings. Solar power stored in the schools' batteries could be drawn on to stabilise the grid at these times. This would negate the need to build more gas fired "peaking" power stations.

##### MENTION HOW IT WOULD SAVE SCHOOLS MONEY:

- Research done by [Beyond Zero Emissions Million Jobs Plan](#)<sup>1</sup> estimates that installing solar panels and batteries on all Australian schools and early

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<sup>1</sup> Beyond Zero Emissions 'Million Jobs Plan' 2020. This plan, developed in conjunction with Tesla, provides for large schools to utilise 250kW of solar plus a medium battery and small schools to use 25kW of solar panels plus a small battery.



## Australian Parents for Climate Action

childhood centres that do not currently have solar and allowing them to operate as virtual power plants would save \$114,000 in annual energy bills per large school or centre and \$12,700 per small school or centre.

- This is based on the estimate of 42% of schools and early childhood centres who do not have solar and batteries and would receive government funding — around 400 schools and centres.

### MENTION HOW IT WOULD CREATE JOBS:

- This project would create thousands of regional jobs and stimulate the economy at a time when we need to pick up after the impacts of COVID-19.
- Jobs would be created across all regions of Australia as solar installers are local businesses, while the money saved by the schools would allow them to employ thousands of new teachers and support staff.
- The Beyond Zero Emissions research estimates at least 6,870 jobs in the renewable energy industry would be created.

### MENTION HOW IT WOULD LOWER EMISSIONS:

- Solar and batteries would save significant greenhouse emissions as it displaces coal power, thereby helping Australia meet its carbon reduction goals.
- The Beyond Zero Emissions research estimates at least 1.35 million tonnes of greenhouse emissions would be saved per year.

### TALK ABOUT HOW IT WOULD WORK FINANCIALLY:

- **Say something like:** I believe that the Federal government should fund the cost of the solar and batteries through a grant process.
- While there are state and Territory programs to put solar on state schools, these do not provide for all state schools, just a proportion of them, and many of these installed systems are not large enough to cover the full daytime energy demands of the school.
- State government programs also do not generally fund non-government schools, child care centres or preschools, many of whom struggle to afford solar. This is a significant sector which needs Federal support if they are to get solar and batteries.