

ENERGY



THE ISSUE EXPLAINED
All roads lead to renewable energy. The issue is the journey each political party has planned to get us there – but will it deliver Territorians lower power prices and energy security?
Renewables will become more and more important in our energy future. But whether the transition will cost consumers and taxpayers less will depend on implementing a well-designed and well-executed plan during the term of the next government. The cost of electricity, the increasing threat to supply security, and the burden on the taxpayer of electricity subsidies and investment needed to underpin more renewables needs to be resolved. Electricity prices for commercial business customers have recently risen another 5 per cent, on top of a 20 per cent increase last year. When a further wholesale price increase is applied next July, businesses will have incurred a 35 per cent increase in tariffs in three years. This kills businesses, it doesn't give birth to them.
The NT Utilities Commission's electricity forecast report, released in June, warned that it was highly unlikely that the Territory would be able to meet its 50 per cent renewables target by 2030 by relying on solar generation and battery storage alone. This means the Territory will need new gas fired generation. The alternative is storage: lots and lots of very expensive batteries. So, for the foreseeable future, gas has a critical role in our economic future – and indeed Australia's future. And that includes onshore as well as offshore.



PARTY: Labor
LEADER: Michael Gunner

The Territory has the potential to become an energy superpower, and only Territory Labor has the plan to make this happen. Labor understands that more renewables means more local jobs and lower prices. We've worked hard to increase renewables from 2 per cent to 16 per cent over the last four years – on track with our 50 per cent renewables by 2030 commitment. The reforms and significant progress we've made would be put at risk by a CLP or Terry Mills government.

The CLP claimed that renewables was a hoax and raised power prices by 30 per cent when they promised they wouldn't. They can't be trusted. We are implementing the Roadmap to Renewables report and continuing crucial market reforms to ensure reliable and secure power. We launched the Home and Business Battery Scheme. We are delivering the \$5m of solar PV for Territory schools. We are investing in a \$30m big battery for the Darwin to Katherine network. We have delivered the \$8.3m battery in Alice Springs. We created and funded the Intyalheme Centre for Future Energy in Alice Springs. We launched the Territory's first Renewable Hydrogen Strategy. We are backing Sun Cable's \$22bn Asia-Singapore Power Link – which will be the world's largest solar farm and big battery. If re-elected, we will continue our progress to make the Territory an energy superpower. Territory Labor will deliver a Remote Renewables Strategy and will undertake a feasibility study into a HVDC cable between Darwin and Alice Springs to unlock our solar resource. We will invest in skills and training so Territorians have the skills to take advantage of local jobs through a renewables-led economic recovery. Only a stable and experienced Labor government will deliver more local jobs from renewables.



PARTY: Territory Alliance
LEADER: Terry Mills

Territory Alliance will ban fracking. It is yesterday's energy source and the global price has tanked. It's unviable. We will support the offshore and conventional gas producers and focus on renewables, because the Northern Territory has world class solar irradiance. This is not a dream or a wish list: the commonwealth has recently fast-tracked the proposed \$22bn Sun Cable solar project to power the NT and Singapore, which will create the world's largest battery and solar farm, in the Barkly, and one of the world's largest dispatchable renewable energy systems. A renewables industry in the NT has the potential to reshape our economy and avoid the boom-bust cycle, with a huge boost for our regional centres and our remote towns and communities. We will move to immediately establish a Renewables Taskforce, chaired by the chief minister, to capitalise on the competitive advantages we have from our land base, our solar potential, and our proximity to the growth markets of Asia. Opportunities include energy exports; green hydrogen exports; microgrids to power small towns and remote communities; and advanced manufacturing and minerals and petrochemicals processing and packaging in regional hubs. We will help kick-start the sector with two major investments: \$10m to turbocharge the Home and Business Battery Scheme and \$10m towards a \$50m renewables investment fund for NT homelands. We support the establishment of an "electric spine" – a transmission link from Darwin to Alice Springs – to transform local industry through regional clusters, using solar energy for processing, manufacturing, packaging and recycling up and down the "electricity spine". Consumers will benefit by reduced cost of electricity to households and businesses, including through a battery storage subsidy to capture excess electricity generated from rooftop solar for use during the night, reducing their electricity bills and greenhouse emissions at the same time.



PARTY: CLP
LEADER: Lia Finocchiaro

A Country Liberal government will aim to connect the Territory to the national electricity market, launch a hydrogen export pilot program and further develop solar, as part of an energy plan for a cleaner, more affordable and job-rich future. The CLP will take the next bold clean energy steps into the future by playing to our strengths. That means harnessing our solar potential, developing hydrogen off the back of onshore gas and connecting to the national network to sell our power.

Fundamentally, we need to know the state of play for energy in the Territory, which is why a CLP government will direct the Utilities Commission to conduct a full cost/benefit analysis of connecting the Territory to the National Electricity Market, connecting our intra-Territory grids, the optimal mix of renewables and transporting and selling energy to the east coast. We will also launch a commercial hydrogen export pilot program to utilise solar and natural gas resources in order to create a hydrogen production industry. The CLP will also secure new infrastructure corridors to accommodate future energy production and export opportunities. The CLP will double the current incentive for homes and businesses to install rooftop solar batteries from \$6000 to \$12,000. This initiative is necessary to add stability to the grid and will help Territorians save on their electricity bills. We will also ensure that power and water prices for residential customers are fixed at 2020 levels for four years, and maintain public ownership of Power Water Corporation, Jacana Energy and Territory Generation. To help progress towards 50 per cent renewables by 2030, a CLP government will also remove the ban on Territory Generation investing in renewables. To be serious about renewables, the government-owned generation company needs to be deployed for renewable power. Energy is a critical building block for the Territory's future. The CLP will get the mix right and create jobs along the way.



PARTY: Greens
LEADER: NA
CANDIDATE FOR NIGHTCLIFF: Billee McGinley

Fossil-fuelled power generation is a major source of greenhouse gas pollution worldwide, driving the climate crisis. However, it should be the easiest industry to decarbonise. CSIRO and Australian Energy Market Operator costings confirm wind, solar and storage technologies are by far the cheapest low carbon options for Australia, and are likely to dominate the global energy mix in the near future. Political will in the NT has been diverted by fossil fuel corporate donations to major parties. The NT Economic Reconstruction Commission is stacked with oil and gas executives, swooping in to sell their obsolete, polluting resources, claiming we need fracking. Central within the NT Greens' energy policy is a rapid transition to 100 per cent renewables and harnessing our full solar potential, driving a modern manufacturing industry and exporting cleaner energy, as described in "2019 Beyond Zero Emissions – the 10 Gigawatt Vision". The grid is stable and dependable through improved battery storage, grid management systems, and integration of green hydrogen. The NT could be a world leader in producing and exporting renewable energy. A feeble 50 per cent renewable energy target, with dirty gas developments, would have feeble returns. Renewable energy will improve living conditions. Increased energy efficiency in NT buildings will create jobs and positively impact all Territorians. Sadly, however, parties sponsored by the fossil fuel industry are focused on corporate profits. Darwin has an excessive fixed quantity gas purchase until 2033, which Power and Water wants consumers to pay for. This gas deal is possibly the motive for delaying the NT access to cheaper energy. The NT Greens support businesses and peak organisations' urgent call for an NT Climate Act, to stop the expansion of gas in the NT. All jurisdictions must co-operate and commit to rapid transition to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions if we want to beat climate change.



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