SUN-POWERED QUEENSLAND

In 2016, an underwater heatwave, fuelled by climate pollution, bleached significant sections of the Great Barrier Reef, killing around 22% of the reef's coral.

Climate change is profoundly threatening communities in Queensland, the reef's future and the 77,000 jobs reliant on a healthy reef. It is critical that Australia and the world rapidly cut carbon pollution and accelerate the transition to clean energy to limit global warming.

Queensland should be at the forefront of this action. Done well, Queensland can embrace the opportunities of new jobs that have a future and are good for our future. Communities will be able to power their lives with energy that's more affordable and reliable and the air we breathe and water we drink will be less polluted.

To do its fair share of the global task, modelling shows Australia will need to reduce its carbon pollution to net zero before 2050[i] and transition our electricity to 100% renewable energy by 2035[ii] and the rest of the energy system to 100% renewable energy by 2050[iii].

About Sun Powered Queensland

Queensland environment and advocacy groups have come together under the banner Sun-Powered Queensland to call on the Queensland Government to commit to an ambitious renewable energy target, phase out coal-fired power and invest in large-scale clean energy projects across our state. Our organisations are reaching out to individuals and businesses all over Queensland to build support for a Sun-powered Queensland.

Since launching the campaign, groups involved in Sun Powered Queensland have organised regional events to coincide with the expert panel's consultations, facilitated supporters to write submissions for the expert panel report, developed online and offline materials for groups and individuals to pledge their support for more renewables in Queensland, and met with local MPs and key stakeholders including in the renewable energy industry.

Our policy asks

To contribute to Australia's national targets, build a strong state economy, create jobs, protect the Great Barrier Reef, and make Queensland the Sun-Powered state, the Queensland Government should:

- Establish a target of 50% renewable electricity by 2030 as a floor and not a ceiling, and implement policies that lead to 100% renewable electricity sooner.
- Legislate short, medium and long-term state renewable energy targets in five year tranches, to give communities, business and investors certainty.
- Legislate reviews of the targets at least every five years, to determine how the target can be increased.
- Implement a 'linear' rather than a 'ramp up' pathway to give the best chance of exceeding the target floor and maximise cumulative carbon pollution reduction.
- Not allow a pro-rata share of the National RET to contribute to the Queensland renewable energy target and instead increase the pre-2020 auction from the recommended 400 MWH to align Qld state target with National target of at least 20% by 2020. We estimate this to be around 1400 MWH.
- Provide incentives to households and business to stimulate greater uptake of clean energy such as solar PV, storage and electric vehicle infrastructure. Including adopting the Victorian Government's model for a 'fair price for solar'.
- Strong support for mid-scale decentralised renewable developments that can collectively lead to rapid installations.
- Establish a community power network and community power hubs (including a community energy grant funding program) to support the delivery of renewable energy solutions led by communities and in social and community housing, rental properties, apartment-style living and isolated regional communities.
- Develop just transition and economic diversification plans to guide people who work in affected industries and their communities as they transition from coal-power to renewable energy, including financial assistance.

[i] http://www.climateinstitute.org.au/verve/_resources/TCI_Beyond_the_Limits_FINAL23082016.pdf and http://www.climatechangeauthority.gov.au/sites/prod.climatechangeauthority.gov.au/files/submissions/2015/WWF%20Australia.pdf
[ii]https://www.uts.edu.au/sites/default/files/article/downloads/ISF_100%25_Australian_Renewable_Energy_Report.pdf
[iii]https://www.uts.edu.au/sites/default/files/article/downloads/ISF_100%25_Australian_Renewable_Energy_Report.pdf
[iv] WWF (2016) 15 Signals Evidence the Energy Transition is Underway. http://d2ouvy59p0dg6k.cloudfront.net/downloads/wwf_energy_signals_english_pdf.pdf
[v]https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/auscon/pages/1284/attachments/original/1472013625/Qld_solar_jobs_brief_24-8-16.pdf?1472013625