

*Removing the
roadblocks
to
renewables*

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*Removing the
unnecessary
roadblocks
to renewables*

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Key roadblocks to clean energy

- **There are many**
- **and varied!** ... planning, property and title, body corporates, electricity laws, market rules, corporate laws, federal, state, local...
- **A few major ones:**
 - Policy uncertainty
 - Lack of carbon price
 - Subsidies to fossil fuels
 - **Confusion !**



Removing roadblocks to renewables

- Making our energy market value renewables
- Creating a fair playing field in enviro laws
- Avoiding enemies

What are our key concerns in providing electricity?

National Electricity Objective

- Australian Energy Market Commission (**AEMC**): rule maker for Australian electricity and gas markets.
- **Must consider the National Electricity Objective when making rules/recommendations.**
- Can only make a rule/recommendation if satisfied the rule will/is likely to contribute to the achievement of the relevant objective.



National Electricity Objective:

“the objective of this Law is to **promote efficient investment in, and efficient operation and use of, electricity services** for the **long term interests of consumers** of electricity with respect to:

- (a) **price, quality, safety, reliability, and security of supply of electricity; and**
- (b) the **reliability, safety and security** of the national electricity system.”

The objective of the market

- **No mention of:**
 - **fairness /social justice; or**
 - **the environment/ climate change.**
- Can still consider in broader policy recommendations outside of the market rules, but not in rule making

How can we fix this?

- Reform needed – Qld Gov and YOU could support this advocacy
- AEMC process
- Submissions only – when decided by AEMC
- Must also campaign/lobby for change from the outside

How do we decide what energy generation to build?

Should we develop dirty fossil fuels?

- **Environment laws: licence to pollute**
- **Require assessment: weigh economic, environment and social impacts**
- **It is possible that a coal fired power plant could be built today under our laws – with your taxpayer \$**
- **We are failing at environmental assessment.**

Failings of enviro assessment

- Consistent **favouring of economics / jobs** – even on faulty modelling e.g. Carmichael coal mine’s ‘10,000 jobs’ - more media than modelling...
- **No strict limits on GHG emissions in environmental laws, no limit on mercury!**
- **Very poor enforcement:**
 - Self-monitoring / monitor where complaint
 - Slaps on wrist
 - Changing authorities to allow pollution

**Miners can walk away from mine
leaving a big hole!**

How can we fix this?

- **Tighter pollution laws**
- *Climate Change Act!*
- Assessment that **values environmental and social impacts** – e.g. ‘ecosystem services’
- **Untangling regulatory capture** - active enforcement by regulator, not friends
- **Better anti-corruption/ political donation laws!**
- **Use YOUR rights to get involved**

Smart planning for renewables

- Mineral resource areas have protections to avoid conflicting land uses:
 - **“Key Resource Areas”**
- **Why not renewables?**
- Connection to grid, limiting conflicts

Smart planning for renewables

- **Avoiding unnecessary conflicts with:**
 - Good quality agricultural land
 - Biodiversity rich areas – avoid clearing!

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Jobs lost as solar project turns sour


11th Nov 2017 5:00 AM

f 139 t 1 COM



Should we build solar farms on prime agricultural land?

THURSDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2017 4:48PM



The proposed Mirani Solar Farm.

Smart planning for renewables

- **Avoiding conflicts in urban areas**
 - Solar access: you're right to access sunlight for panels

Solutions:

- State government intervention in planning **assessment and strategic mapping**
- **Least impact sites - could be built into reverse auction criteria?**
- **Mandate local government assessment criteria**
- **Ensure meaningful community involvement**
- **Provide guidance for regulating rights to solar access**

Thanks for listening!



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