



## Senator Jacqui Lambie Senator for Tasmania

### Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Bill 2015

Mr President,

I rise to speak to the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Bill 2015.

Before I detail the reasons why I think every Senator should support this legislation it's useful for future reference to consider a small technical description of this legislation:

#### Summary

In summary the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Bill 2015 amends the: *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000* to:

- Adjust the required GWh of renewable source electricity in each year from 2016 to 2030 with a GWh target of 33000 GWh in 2020;
- and replace the current partial exemption for electricity used in emissions-intensive trade-exposed activities with a full exemption;
- *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000* and *Climate Change Authority Act 2011* removes the requirement for the Climate Change Authority to undertake biennial reviews on the operation of the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000* and subordinate regulations;
- and Renewable Energy (Electricity) Regulations 2001 to reinstate native forest wood waste as an eligible source of renewable energy.

Mr President

This is a very important piece of legislation for Tasmania because we are the renewable energy capital of Australia.

No other state in Australia uses as much renewable energy compared with non-renewable energy as Tasmania.

A 2014 Report from the Australian Bureau of Resources and Energy Economics shows that in 2012-13 out of a total of Tasmania's 3,136 Mega Watt installed capacity – 2,630 Mega Watts were from renewable Hydro Power.

In 2012-13 Tasmania had no electricity generated by either Black or Brown Coal fired power plants – however the rest of Australia (excluding Northern Territory) relied on Black and Brown Coal to produce almost 29,000 Mega Watts of electricity.

This sum of 29,000 Mega Watts of electricity represented more than a half of Australia's total installed electricity generating capacity of 56,079. Mega Watts

Today more than 95% of Tasmania's electricity comes from carbon-free, renewable Hydro electricity which - unlike wind and solar – is able to power heavy industry with a reliable base load power – 24 hours a day – whether the wind is blowing or the sun is shining.

Put simply when we turn the power switch on in Tasmania we don't pollute the environment with any CO2 – so why should our Businesses, Industries and Families be hit with more expensive electricity because of main land RET penalties?

Shop 4/22 Mount Street PO  
Box 256  
Burnie TAS 7320

OFFICE: 03 6431 2233  
EMAIL:  
senator.lambie@aph.gov.au WEB:  
www.senatorlambie.com.au

FAX: 03 6431 3200  
TOLL FREE: 1300 885 041



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Why should 10,000 direct and indirect manufacturing jobs associated with Tasmania's Aluminium, Zink, Magnesium, Cement and Paper industries be placed at risk because of RET penalties totalling tens of millions of dollars each year?

And to rub salt into the wound, the RET money raised in Tasmania is going in to a fund – whose main purpose is to replace mainland coal fired power generators with renewable energy.

The RET scheme in place now – discounted and ignored most of the renewable energy created by Tas Hydro.

Parliamentary Library research showed Tas – Hydro only received in Australian RET credit income, about \$60M p/a – or 5%, of the possible RET credits created by the electricity generated from Tasmanian renewable water power.

So why are we missing out on the other 95%, or more than \$1.1B per year of possible Australian RET credits?

This is an important question that the federal Liberal Party, who first designed the RET system, must answer.

Everyone knows that water – power (Hydro) is one of the best forms of renewable energy available to human kind. Unlike wind power – Hydro can supply cheap, reliable, base load electricity for 21<sup>st</sup> century factories, businesses and families.

There's no risk of brown outs, voltage fluctuations or loss of electric supply, if a community relies on Hydro – which Tasmania does.

So it disappoints and upsets me that Tasmanian Liberal, Labor and Green politicians for over a decade, have accepted a mainland RET scheme which only pays Tasmania \$60m a year for RET Credits – when we should have receive more than \$1.1B if it was to be fair.

Mr President,

Renewable Energy is a policy area that I had major disagreements with Clive Palmer.

You'll recall Mr Palmer signed an infamous RET deal with former American Vice President Al Gore without my knowledge or approval.

If I had blindly followed the Palmer United RET policy of not lowering the RET Target before the next election – as the Greens would have – then I would have risked the jobs of 10,000 Tasmanian workers and the viability of all of Tasmania's major manufactures.

My Tasmania already has the highest unemployment rate in Australia.

And my conscience will not allow me to sit silently and watch as our manufacturing industry and economy was destroyed by what is effectively a sneaky mainland tax which forced:

- 1) Every Tasmanian to pay an extra 3.6% on top of their electricity account.
- 2) Our largest manufactures and employers to pay (on top of all their normal taxes), tens of millions of dollars in mainland RET penalties...

... so that Australia's mainland states have the funds to replace coal fired power stations with renewable energy.

One of the main reasons I resigned to become an independent was, to put my state's economic health and workers job security, before PUP's RET deal with Al Gore.



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As I mentioned before... and I'll say it again.. We don't pollute the environment with Co2 when we turn on our power switches.

So why should we be forced to pay any mainland RET penalties?

### Forestry Industry

I am very pleased that this Government has listened to my advocacy for the forestry industry and make changes to the current RET Scheme which will allow Bioenergy to play a greater role in Australia's renewable energy future.

Allowing all electricity generated from biofuels created from bio-waste (*food, meat, all wood, straw and feedstock etc.*) to contribute to our National RET target is also another important provision in this legislation.

I will use my vote in the Senate on the behalf of the Tasmanian forestry industry and its workers **to** protect and guarantee the reinstatement of wood waste from sustainable native forestry harvesting and processing operations - to contribute once again to the RET target.

Nation wide this will create and support thousands of jobs in rural & regional areas. And in Tasmanian it will create and support hundreds of vital jobs in our country regions.

Despite the blatant lies and mistruths put out by the Greens - all this provision means is that the timber off cuts and small woody waste, which is currently left to rot or burnt in bush fires – can be used in the generation of renewable energy.

Not one extra tree will be cut down.

Now I expect the Greens to criticise my call – but they've created enough damage to our economy in Tasmania - and enough jobs have been lost because of their over-the -top environmental policies.

If any one wants to see what happens when the Greens take over come and have a look at the chaos, economic and social destruction

The Greens have brought Tasmania to the brink of economic and social ruin.

Common sense, worker's job security and sustainable economic growth must come first in Tasmania again.

Mr President

I have never heard so much garbage about energy and climate change.

If you listen to the Greens you'll hear that they think that a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy and industrialised society can sustainably and affordably run on renewable energy.

What a load of rubbish – the only form of renewable energy, which can provide a base load power for a 21<sup>st</sup> century industrialised advanced society with world competitive energy prices is Hydro power.

The rest of renewable sources of energy are unreliable and too expensive to power a 21<sup>st</sup> century, industrialised advanced society.

The Greens are peddling false hope and a blatant lie about renewable energy being able to replace the fossil fuel powered generators, which provide base load power for our cities and businesses.



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Apart from Hydro Energy, the only way we can cheaply and reliably de-carbonise our energy generation while maintaining a secure base load power and is to move very quickly to nuclear power generation.

And it's about time we had an honest debate about that option and I will be speaking more about that plan in the near future.

If we follow the Greens foolish plan to shut down our fossil fuel power generation and replace it with unreliable expensive renewables – then you can kiss good-bye to cheap reliable energy..

... and say hello to brown outs, power failures and the destruction of millions of manufacturing jobs.

Mr President

The only way Australia will maintain our comparatively high wages and standards of living is to ensure that our manufactures, farmers and businesses have access to energy and electricity prices which are some of the cheapest in the world.

As a Nation we must never loose sight of the fact that our Nation's prosperity – our grand childrens' jobs and privileged place in the world depend on the fact that we must provide - when compared to the US, Canada, South America, Europe and Asia – the cheapest energy in the world - to our businesses.

If we don't as a Nation focus on cheap energy – it is guaranteed that our standards of living and wages will rapidly drop, because the two biggest costs in making products, food – creating wealth are energy and wages.

If we don't have cheap reliable energy – then our relatively high wages and standards of living compared with the rest of the world will disappear.

Mr President

It is not just me, who is speaking this self-evident economic truth about the critical need to secure cheap reliable energy for our business, families and workers.

I remind this Senate once again of the words and observations of respected Australian Academic Dr Thomas Barlow - a Research strategist specialising in science and technological innovation – and author of *Between the Eagle and the Dragon: who is winning the innovation race?*

*On ABC Radio National he reminded Geraldine Douge that:*

*“One of the key theories of why the industrial revolution occurred and where it did – in the north of England is that in the 18<sup>th</sup> century the north of England had a an overly unique combination of low energy prices and high Labour costs*

*That combination was the perfect combination because it encourages a society to substitute labor for capital.*

*That is one definition of innovation. You want to use fewer people to achieve the same or better outcomes.*

*Look to the US – at the moment the US is having an energy revolution. They have cheap energy.*

*The cost of natural gas in the US is about a third of what it was in 2008. And as a consequence we see manufacturing flow back to the US.*

*But far more significant than the trend in manufacturing is the potential that this creates for an acceleration in innovation”*



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Mr President,

It is clear that America has learnt the lesson about economic growth, innovation, jobs and cheap energy – and that its slow but sure economic revival has come about because the a combination of policies which have delivered some of the worlds' cheapest and most reliable energy to their people and businesses.

And quite simply without cheap, reliable energy – Australia is doomed to suffer a terrible fate.

Our standards of living will drop, downward pressure on our wages will be irresistible and our manufacturing industry and wealth producing capacity will collapse – more than they've already collapsed.

### Climate Change

Every Green member of this Senate needs to be reminded of this fact:

Yes we have climate change, indeed there has never been a time in the world's history when we didn't have climate change...

Al Gore's book "An inconvenient truth" on page 66 documents in a graph - the rise and fall of average world temperature for the last 600,000 years.

Al Gore's figures show the average world temperature has been much hotter and much colder than today's average of 14C.

And how do I know that todays average world temperature is about 14C?

(Most members of this place, including the Greens would have a clue about the value of the temperature – which we are all worried about – the temperature we don't want to increase or get warmer.)

On page 5 of Tim Flannery's book "The Weather Makers" he tells us that, *"for the last 10,000 years Earths thermostat has been set to an average surface temperature of around 14C."*

Mr President,

Most Greens wouldn't know what the average World Temperature was – but they'll speak about Climate change as if they were experts.

Of course what the Greens and Mr Flannery fails to tell us is that over the last 300,000 years the worlds average temperature - as show by Mr Gore's Book on page 66 - was much hotter than our 14C on at least 3 occasions.

At approximately 100,000, 200,000 and 260,000 years ago, the average world's temperature exceeded today's 14C by many degrees –

So yes of course - there has never been a time in the world's history when we didn't have climate change...

It's just that the Greens and others who rely on the fear created by the thought of climate change to make money or benefit their political cause – will never admit to this reality.

I was present when Ross Garnaut – the architect of one of Australia's most significant climate change policies in 2008 – was asked :

What is the current average world temperature?



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He tried to tell me that it was 12C!

Indeed should any one require, I can produce a hand drawn graph where Mr Garnaut tried to convince me that the average world temperature was 12C and had climbed 2C in 50 years!

Mr President

In shaping policy Climate policy there is a lot of fear and Green dishonesty and we have to remember this fact.

Even by the Green's own rules on Climate Change - with 30 to 40 years worth of climate change already locked it ...

Humans can't stop climate change – we can only make credible plans to adapt, innovate and survive climate change.

And practically that means focusing on Australia's food & water security, energy security and national security.

We've got to:

1. Protect our Prime Agricultural land and soils. Protect our food growing lands and allow our framers to be profitable, secure and earn a decent living.
2. Build more dams – because if you don't want to drink water then don't build dams. And use those dams not only for water security but for making clean, reliable, cheap Hydro electricity.
3. Become world leaders in nuclear energy and electricity production. We must use our Uranium resources to secure our energy future and make sure Australia has the cheapest, most reliable and safe energy supplies in the world.
4. Dramatically boost our military, emergency and essential services so that what ever mother nature throws at us – what ever other envious, aggressive countries want to throw at us – Australia has enough trained military, emergency and essential services to care for, protect and defend – our current population, childrens' future and national interests.

Theses are the policies, plans and solutions we should be talking about when we discuss climate change –

... not the absolute rubbish that comes from the Greens mouths about building wind farms to save the world ...

... and stoping an unstoppable climate change, by killing off Australian manufacturing jobs and making our power charges the most expensive and unreliable in the western developed world.

For if you think you can stop the world's climate from changing, by making pensioner's pay more for their energy, building wind farms and mandating Renewable Energy Targets – then you are worse than deluded.

You are dangerously deluded – and you should be locked up and changed with treason –

... because you are helping our enemies and destroying our great Nation.

If you agree with the rubbish which has come out of the mouth of Christine Milne and the Greens at best you are condemning our children to a life of abject poverty.

Mr President,

I will gladly vote for the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Bill 2015 because it will protect 10,000 Tasmanian jobs –

Shop 4/22 Mount Street PO  
Box 256  
Burnie TAS 7320

OFFICE: 03 6431 2233  
EMAIL:  
senator.lambie@aph.gov.au WEB:  
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FAX: 03 6431 3200  
TOLL FREE: 1300 885 041



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... which are tied to the beating heart of our economy – our heavy manufacturing and forestry industries.

This Legislation will effectively lower the price of energy for Tasmania's biggest employers... our manufactures.

And make our timber industry more efficient.

This legislation will allow Tasmanian businesses to compete, make a modest profit and sell their products on a corrupt world market –

... dominated by countries which are smart enough to deliver cheap energy to their people and businesses –

... and not dumb enough to allow the Greens to be in charge.

**End**