



SolarCitizens

A community voice for solar

May 13 , 2016

Mr Tony Windsor

Candidate for New England

15a White Street, Tamworth 2340.

Sent via email: Tonywindsor2016@gmail.com

Dear Mr Windsor,

RE: Solar Citizens Election Campaign 2016 - Response requested

I write on behalf of the 1.5 million households in Australia who have solar and the millions more that want access to solar and renewable energy.

Solar Citizens is an independent, community-based organisation bringing together millions of solar owners and supporters to grow and protect solar in Australia.

As we head towards the 2016 Federal Election we are reaching out to candidates to determine their position on Australia's necessary transition to become a nation powered by 100% renewable energy.

In April, Solar Citizens launched the Homegrown Power Plan in conjunction with GetUp!. The Plan is a comprehensive set of policies that outlines how Australia can make an orderly, planned transition to 100% renewable electricity by 2030. This report can be viewed and downloaded at www.solarcitizens.org.au/hpp.

Using the recommendations within the Homegrown Power Plan as a basis, and in consultation with our 83,000+ supporters, we have developed a series of policies that are priorities for the coming Federal Election, and as such we seek to assess your level of commitment to these policies.

Please respond by close of business on Friday May 20, 2016. Soon after this date we intend to inform our supporters of the outcomes of this correspondence through a specific website and related direct communication via email, social and online media that allows the general public to compare the solar and renewable energy policy commitments of candidates and make their judgements accordingly.

Create a national fair price for solar

Australia is leading the world when it comes to solar installation with more than 1.5 million households already embracing solar to power their homes. We need to ensure a fair return on investment for surplus energy that they feedback to the grid. Currently solar households get paid a shocking 20% of the price charged by big power companies.

✓ **Will you commit to establishing and coordinating a national feed-in tariff recognising the contribution solar households make to the grid?**

Fund community owned power

Not everyone can install solar on their rooftop. That's why we need a federally funded Community Powerhouses program that kickstarts local, community renewable energy projects in towns and suburbs across the country allowing more households to benefit from clean, affordable energy.

✓ **Will you commit to establishing a federally funded Community Powerhouses program in the next term of government?**

✓ **Protect and expand the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) and the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)**

These bodies have played an integral role in ensuring Australia does not fall behind globally when it comes to the expansion of solar and renewable energy. The Homegrown Power Plan recommends an increase in ARENA funding from \$1.3 billion to \$2 billion and restoring ARENA's grant making function.

The CEFC should also be strengthened, with more choice provided to the agency about what projects it invests in by lowering how much interest it charges on the loans it makes.

✓ **Will you commit to protecting and expanding the CEFC and ARENA?**

-- ends --

We hope that you will fully commit to these positive policies that will ensure a fair, clean, affordable and innovative energy system that will ensure our nation can benefit from an \$800 billion slice of the clean energy boom by 2050.

Please contact us to discuss any questions you may have about these policy areas, but please note that all details can be found within the Homegrown Power Plan. **We look forward to your response to the following questions by close of business on Friday May 20, 2016.**

Yours sincerely,



Claire O'Rourke
National Director
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Solar Citizens Federal Election 2016 Policy Priorities

Solar Citizens priorities for the Federal Election are:

100% renewable power by 2030

The Homegrown Power Plan shows how we can power Australian homes and businesses with 100% renewable electricity by 2030. Not only is a move to 100% renewable energy practical and achievable, it will mean a better, fairer power system and lower electricity bills for everyone.

✓ **Will you commit to a goal of 100% renewable power (electricity only) by 2030?**

Building more big solar through supporting reverse auctions.

Australia needs to build big solar and storage in the right places, for the right price. And the best way to get it done is with national reverse auctions. Reverse auctions have a proven track-record in the ACT, which is set to deliver 100% renewables by 2020.

✓ **Will you commit to holding regular national clean energy reverse auctions from 2017?**

SolarCitizens.org.au