



Creating jobs and spurring investment in new energy industries

The Australian Government’s ambitious climate and energy plan is also a plan for jobs. In a changing global economy, Australians want – and deserve – good-quality jobs that will secure their economic prosperity and the prosperity of future generations.

The world’s climate emergency is Australia’s jobs opportunity. The 2022–23 Budget investment in new energy industries will put us on track to becoming a renewable energy superpower that exports clean energy and creates thousands of Australian jobs.

Regional Australia in particular has powered the nation’s economy for generations. Led by renewable energy, we can strengthen the economic future of Australia’s regions, revitalise traditional industries with cheaper and cleaner energy, and power new industries like offshore wind and green hydrogen. The Government is committed to stronger regions – and has made job creation, growth and investment in regional people and communities a top priority.

As part of this, a new Net Zero Economy Taskforce will bring together perspectives from regional communities, state and territory governments, industry, and unions. It will be tasked with advising the Government on ensuring regional Australians are first to benefit from Australia’s transformation to a renewable energy superpower.

Through the Budget, the Government is investing in building new energy industries in regions undergoing rapid change to ensure regional Australia continues to thrive.

The investment includes the following measures:

- \$1.9 billion to establish the Powering the Regions Fund, which will support Australian industry to decarbonise, develop new clean energy industries, help build the new energy workforce and continue to develop supply of Australian Carbon Credit Units.
- \$71.9 million over 7 years to build a Hydrogen Hub in Townsville to speed up the development of Australia’s green hydrogen industry. This takes the Australian Government’s planned

investment in hydrogen hubs to over \$525 million, supported by investments through the Regional Hydrogen Hubs program in places including Gladstone, the Hunter, Bell Bay, and the Pilbara. Each hub is expected to bring on at least \$41 million to \$70 million of additional funding, totalling at least \$501 million of further investment.

- \$0.5 million in 2022–23 to support the establishment of offshore wind and other renewables
- \$2.2 million to enable a low emissions future and support green markets through consultation and policy design work for creating a Guarantee of Origin scheme.

These DCCEEW portfolio measures are part of a total 2022–23 Budget investment of \$24.9 billion to 2029–30 across Government to deliver climate change and energy transformation priorities.

Portfolio initiatives in this Budget are supported by other Government investments that will help industries and regions benefit from the energy transformation. For example, this Budget includes \$62 million over 4 years towards Skilling the Clean Energy Workforce, part of the Government’s commitment to support 10,000 New Energy Apprenticeships. This investment will deliver financial support, assistance and mentoring directly to New Energy Apprentices.

Why is this important and who will benefit?

Establishing the Powering the Regions Fund

Regional Australia is home to industries crucial to Australia’s economic prosperity, including energy, manufacturing and resources industries. Having powered our economy for so long, it is vital Australia strengthens their competitiveness in global markets so they can continue to power the economy and create jobs.

This Budget initiative delivers on an election commitment to help existing industries decarbonise, and develop new clean energy industries and workforces to ensure Australia’s regions continue to thrive. Emissions-intensive industries like those involved in aluminium, steel and chemical manufacturing will receive support to cut their emissions and make the transition to net zero.

In addition, the \$1.9 billion Powering the Regions Fund will enable the Government to continue to develop supply of Australian Carbon Credit Units. This will help regional businesses, particularly those in the agriculture and forestry sectors, to develop projects that reduce emissions and store carbon.

The Fund will also help position Australia as a renewable energy superpower, creating jobs and economic opportunities in the regions.

Building regional hydrogen hubs

Green hydrogen will be critical in our efforts to support hard-to-abate sectors, such as industrial processing (like fertilizer production) and transport, to reduce their emissions and achieve net zero. Green hydrogen is produced using renewable energy such as wind and solar.

Hydrogen hubs are regions where various producers, users and potential exporters of hydrogen across industrial, transport, export and energy markets are co-located. They will give our green hydrogen industry an early-stage springboard to scale, which will help support other industrial sectors in the regions.

Taken together, the Townsville Hydrogen Hub initiative and the \$454 million Regional Hydrogen Hubs program will deliver on the Government’s plans to establish hydrogen hubs in places including Gladstone, the Hunter, Bell Bay, and the Pilbara. These investments will help develop Australia’s green hydrogen industry and boost its decarbonisation efforts.

Each hub is expected to bring on at least \$41 million to 70 million of additional funding, totalling at least \$501 million of further investment. They will also create jobs for technicians, tradespeople, engineers and other professionals in the green hydrogen industry, as well as significant job opportunities in related businesses and service industries.

Establishing an offshore wind industry

Offshore wind energy can offer large, year-round generation capacity and will be a vital addition to Australia’s renewable energy mix.

It can also support high-quality jobs for regional coastal communities. Developing an offshore wind industry has the potential to create significant new employment, and billions of dollars of investment in Australia’s coastal economies. Estimates for job opportunities from an offshore wind industry in Australia range from 3,000 to 8,000 jobs annually.

Funding will support development of a new industry growth strategy to help establish an offshore renewables industry in Australia, with 6 coastal regions already identified as promising sites for offshore wind. It will build on the Government’s work to establish a clear regulatory framework that supports new investment.

Enabling a Low Emissions Future and Supporting Green Markets

Australians and Australia’s trading partners need to have confidence in the emissions reductions delivered by clean energy products. Integrity around clean energy is essential for generating market and investment in our industries, and for creating new jobs.

This measure will enable the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water to consult the public on a Guarantee of Origin scheme for renewable electricity and hydrogen, and help develop the scheme.

Australia has an ambition to become a clean energy superpower. Making it easier to track and verify emissions reduction claims is crucial to achieving this ambition.

How much are we investing?

Measure	Amount
Establishing the Powering the Regions Fund	\$1.9b
Townsville Hydrogen Hub	\$71.9m over 7 years from 2022–23
Regional Hydrogen Hubs	\$454m over 4 years from 2022–23
Establishing Offshore Renewables in Australia	\$0.5m in 2022–23
Enabling a low emissions future and supporting green markets	\$2.2m in 2022–23

Learn more about [Energy policy in Australia](#).

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present. © Commonwealth of Australia 2022

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