



ADAM BANDT MP

Jennifer Westacott AO
Chief Executive Officer
The Business Council of Australia
GPO Box 1472
Melbourne VIC 3001
Via: reception@bca.com.au

11 February 2019

Dear Ms Westacott,

As the recently elected leader of the Australian Greens, a party representing 1.5 million voters with 10 members of Parliament and aiming to be in balance of power in both houses of Parliament after the next election, I write to discuss the role of Australian business in implementing a Green New Deal to address the twin crises of economic stagnation and the climate emergency.

I note recent reports on the Business Council's adoption of zero emissions by 2050 as a goal for Australia. Whilst I applaud your acknowledgement that we must move to zero emissions, so much of our carbon budget has already been spent that on current government projections, moving simply to zero emissions by 2050 is inconsistent with limiting global warming to 2 degrees. Without strong 2030 targets, 'zero by 2050' means giving up on the 2 degrees goal in the Paris Agreement.

I want to see a manufacturing renaissance in Australia. I want Australia to regain our competitive advantages through an abundance of cheap, renewable electricity that attracts global businesses to invest in our country and move into our region. Securing globally low energy prices from renewables will mean we can create the next generation of regional employment and investment into manufacturing and heavy industry.

I want Australia to become a renewable energy superpower, where we export our sunlight and wind to the rest of the world via undersea cable, green hydrogen and ammonia. I want Australia to build on - rather than simply export - its mineral riches so we can create the products needed in a zero carbon world powered by clean energy.

At 1 degree of global warming, the record drought and disastrous bushfires are punishing our agriculture and tourism sectors, to say nothing of the cost to the human and natural world. Our economy is being hit hard by the climate emergency. Distressingly, it is clear that the Paris Agreement target of limiting global warming to below 2 degrees - a target your organisation supports - will not be met. Australia's and other countries' current commitments have us on track for up to a catastrophic 3.4 degrees of global warming.

This would cause economic upheaval on a scale never seen before. We cannot allow Australian businesses to be decimated by the climate emergency.

The science is both frightening and clear. There is no half-way house. To ensure Australians' living standards do not decline, we must adhere to the science, which means a phase out of existing fossil fuels within a decade.

ADAM BANDT MP Leader of the Australian Greens • Federal Member for Melbourne

📍 GF1 296 Brunswick St, Fitzroy VIC 3065 📞 (03) 9417 0759 ✉ adam.bandt.mp@aph.gov.au

🐦 @AdamBandt 🌐 /Adam.Bandt.MP 📷 @AdamBandt [greens.org.au](https://www.greens.org.au)

So I seek your support for a Green New Deal, a plan of co-investment and action to grow new jobs and industries and reinvigorate our existing ones as we transform Australia into a renewable energy superpower and decarbonise our economy. As far as business is concerned, this would involve us working together including on the following 5 point plan:

1. **Low Cost Energy** A policy shift to treating electricity as a low-cost input for businesses that only renewables can provide.
2. **Fuel Switching** Government assistance for businesses to 'fuel switch' from gas to electricity for both heat and energy in industrial processes. Support for investment in energy efficiency and innovation would also help industry avoid high gas prices.
3. **Innovation** The significant expansion of research and development support and tax concessions to drive a growth in non-polluting 'smart' sectors of the economy.
4. **Infrastructure** Government taking advantage of record-low interest rates to invest in clean infrastructure, including transforming our grid to have Australia 100% renewable by 2030. This would include a significant increase in Australia's generating capacity to permit the electrification of transport and industry. Investment in public transport and construction would also be a massive boost to the Australian economy, providing desperately needed opportunities for Australian businesses and manufacturers.
5. **Phasing out fossil fuels** An orderly transition out of coal, oil and gas by 2030 that gives investors and affected communities time to plan and attract new, well-paid employment.

The benefits of this plan for your members far outweigh the costs to those handful of coal, oil and gas companies whose business model is premised on externalising destruction on a widespread scale. This language may seem harsh, but it is the reality, and the sooner it is confronted, the better for all of us. The transition out of fossil fuels is coming. The question is whether it happens as a series of unpredictable and disruptive shocks or as a successfully managed plan.

We want to work with you to create an environment where business can flourish with cheap energy and government on its side. I urge you to be part of developing an agreed roadmap so that it can be implemented when the Greens are again in balance of power.

People are sometimes unsure what the Greens think about jobs and the economy. My goal is to make it clear that a Green New Deal means jobs and prosperity. I hope we can meet soon to discuss the exciting Green New Deal and what it means for Australian business.

Yours sincerely,



Adam Bandt
Leader of the Australian Greens