



# LIVING REEFS, DYING COAL

## After Coal: The Clean Economy

Protecting the jobs of the future from an industry of the past

Coal or coral? The science says we cannot have both. We have a clear choice, we can support a just transition away from coal to save the jobs and communities in Queensland that rely on a healthy Great Barrier Reef or we can keep propping up a coal industry that has no long-term future.

The mining and burning of coal is driving dangerous global warming which threatens to kill our magnificent Great Barrier Reef and endangers the 69,000 Australian jobs it supports. Australian coal exports are directly harming our precious Reef, and robbing our children of their future.

The Reef has been hit by the worst ever mass coral bleaching, with 93% of reefs affected. Scientists estimate that 50% of bleached coral may die. If we don't keep global warming below 1.5 degrees, the best science tells us we will lose our precious coral reefs completely.

Australia's mining boom has just been overtaken by a dining boom. Tourism numbers have skyrocketed in recent years with a 44% surge in Chinese visitors year on year. To sustain this booming industry, we have to invest in protecting those beautiful places that brings visitors to our shores.

The Great Barrier Reef is one of Australia's greatest drawcards in bringing global visitors to enjoy our food, friendliness and natural wonders. But our coal and gas industries are threatening the very existence of our reef and marine systems.

### > KEEP COAL IN THE GROUND

The Greens want to ensure a bright future for the reef and coal communities, by making sure coal companies pay for the damage they are doing. That money can be reinvested into the Reef and clean energy projects creating new, long-term jobs under our plan to *Renew Australia*. Around 90% of the coal we dig up is exported – roughly 1 billion tonnes of Reef-wrecking pollution, which is double Australia's domestic pollution levels.

Thermal coal is in structural decline as the world acts on global warming and moves towards clean energy. Coal companies have made their profits, now they are slashing jobs. 16,000 jobs have been lost since 2012, with many more to come.

We can either stand by and watch ordinary people suffer, or we can manage the transition, with a plan to ensure there is justice for workers and communities.

### > LIVING REEFS, DYING COAL PACKAGE

- **No new coal or gas:** The climate can't take any more new coal or gas. Our Reef and our food producing land shouldn't be subjected to any new coal or gas mines or expansions when we have abundant clean energy that is reliable, creates more jobs and won't worsen global warming. The dirty energy industry is in freefall and we need to prepare now for the inevitable transition.
- **Justice for workers and communities:** The Greens would create a \$1 billion Clean Energy Transition Fund to help workers and communities adjust to the transition as our coal usage and exports gradually decline. The money will fund regional structural adjustment programs to provide training for new jobs and attract new investment to affected regions.
- **Pricing pollution from mining:** The Greens want to re-implement a carbon price, but this time around coal and gas exporters would have to pay the full-cost of the greenhouse gases that leak from mining operations. The Greens will insist on no more free permits or giveaways to big polluters.
- **Stop giving miners tax-free fuel:** Coal miners get tax-free fuel, while the rest of us pay 39 cents in every litre. Making them pay excise would help save the Reef and save the government \$6 billion a year in subsidies.
- **Thermal coal export levy:** Coal mining companies can leak pollution for free and they also export coal without having to pay for the damage they do. A thermal coal export levy of \$3 per tonne will raise \$700 million a year and reduce incentives for coal companies to ship as much as they can from the port, at whatever price they can get. The levy would not apply to destination countries with an effective price on pollution. The levy would help fund the transition to clean energy, natural disaster preparedness and recovery, and climate finance for developing nations.

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- **RenewAustralia with clean energy:** The new economy will be powered by clean technologies. The Greens want to see the Sunshine State live up to its reputation and attract billions in investment and tens of thousands of new jobs. The Greens' *RenewAustralia* plan for at least 90% renewable energy by 2030 will make this happen.
  - **Re-invest into the Reef:** The billions that can be raised or saved through these measures will help fund the long-term health of the Reef, including boosting funding for our reef champions, high-tech water quality projects, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Australian Institute for Marine Science.