



Name: Climate Action Network Australia

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1. Reduce the cost of meeting carbon targets

1. What could be done to improve the cost-effectiveness and alignment of policies to reduce emissions across the industrial, electricity and transport sectors?

The participant did not respond to this question.

2. Are there gaps in the emissions-reduction policies in the industrial, electricity and transport sectors which should be addressed?

The participant did not respond to this question.

3. Are there any duplicative emissions-reduction policies in the industrial, electricity and transport sectors which could be streamlined?

The participant did not respond to this question.

2. Speed up approvals for new energy infrastructure

1. Are planning and approvals processes for large energy infrastructure taking too long? If so, what causes the most delay?

There are a number of Federal and State planning, assessment and approvals processes proponents of large scale renewable energy have to undertake.

Often, these processes are designed to ensure that impacts on nature are minimised, while benefits for communities are maximised.

We support the principles of 'fast-tracking' renewable energy projects, but only those that have met the highest standards of community engagement and co-design, community benefit sharing and protecting nature.

Due to different agreements between the Federal Government and States / Territories, the length of time taken to approve a project varies. Exploring ways to streamline these variabilities may go towards speeding up approvals of renewable energy projects.

2. How can planning and approvals processes be sped up without unduly compromising regulatory standards?

According to the Australian Energy Market Operator, we will need seven times the large scale renewable energy projects and more than 10,000 km of transmission lines, if we are to meet our climate and renewable energy targets. However, the rollout of these projects needs to be done in an environmentally sensitive way that benefits local communities.

To ensure that any approvals processes to speed up the roll out of renewables while maximising the benefits for nature and people, it is imperative that Australia's federal environmental laws are reformed urgently. It is well known that Australia's environmental

planning laws are no longer fit for purpose and the Samuel Review was highly critical of its failures.

As such, we strongly recommend that this takes place within the next 12 months and that the reforms are done as a holistic package. Any attempts to speed up approvals without deep, structural reforms to the EPBC Act will come at the expense of nature and communities which will only serve to undermine the social licence of renewables and compromise climate goals.

3. [Should clean energy projects be treated differently to other projects for the purpose of environmental and other approvals? If so, how?](#)

At the Federal level, we strongly encourage renewable energy projects awaiting approval to be given priority over fossil fuel projects. However, as noted above, any measures to fast track approvals for renewable energy projects cannot come at the expense of nature or communities.

4. [What can be done to build local community support for new energy infrastructure projects?](#)

The renewable energy transition is underway and there is a long way to go before we can fully decarbonise the Australian economy. Much of the disruption from the energy transition is borne by local communities, particularly, those that have to host renewable energy infrastructure and transmission lines.

Building community support needs to move at the pace of trust. Governments and developers need to invest in good consultation, free informed prior consent with First Nations communities and ensure that projects are co-designed to maximise benefits to the community. One of the challenges faced by local communities is the time and expertise needed to understand project proposals, engagement, approvals and accessing benefits. One way that this complexity can be addressed is by federally funded Local Energy Hubs.

Separately, we refer the Productivity Commission to the work of organisations such as First Nations Clean Energy Network, Re-Alliance, Community Power Agency, The Next Economy and the Smart Energy Council on their community engagement guidelines, frameworks and general leadership.

5. [Please outline any evidence showing the productivity benefits of faster approvals for energy projects.](#)

The benefits of faster approvals of clean energy projects need to look beyond economic benefits towards the broader economic, social and environmental benefits that could be gained from decarbonising our economy, addressing the climate challenge and investing in protecting nature.

3. [Encourage adaptation by addressing barriers to private investment](#)

1. [What are the barriers and enablers impacting decisions by owner-occupiers, landlords and developers about how housing is built and updated over time so that it is resilient to the effects of climate change?](#)

The participant did not respond to this question.

2. What information do people need to make decisions about where to live, how to build and how to upgrade their homes to appropriately factor in climate change?

The participant did not respond to this question.

3. What are the most cost-effective retrofitting options for improving the resilience of Australia's existing housing stock? What are their costs and benefits?

The participant did not respond to this question.

4. What role might minimum standards play in ensuring the resilience of Australia's housing stock?

The participant did not respond to this question.

5. The impacts of climate change are being factored into the regulation of where and how houses are built in different ways around Australia. What does leading practice look like? Where is there room for improvement? Are there lessons we can learn from other countries?

The participant did not respond to this question.