

Submission to the Productivity Commission: Interim Report on
"Investing in Cheaper, Cleaner Energy and the Net-Zero
Transformation"

Due Date: 15th September 2025.

I wish to lodge concerns regarding the Productivity Commission's Interim Report; Investing in Cheaper, Cleaner Energy and the Net-Zero Transformation.

This report provides a distorted view of the energy transition, using false carbon accounting and incorrectly claiming that renewable energy is cheaper than other proven energy sources.

The Commission's recommendation to fast-track environmental approvals spells ecological destruction, and massive harm to regional landscapes and communities. Why is it that an industry presented as one that will be saving the environment, needs to be exempt from local, state and federal legislation that is in place to protect our fragile and biodiverse landscapes? (In Qld renewables are already exempt from the Vegetation Management Act and the Reef regulations. Being Code Assessable, they do not even have to do an EIS. This is a massive red flag to anyone capable of logic.) Are renewables now going to be able to ignore MNES as well? This legislation will not go unnoticed if it is implemented and will attract both national and international scrutiny.

Fast-tracking approvals under the EPBC Act has already led to immense harm to biodiverse wild places and areas of high agricultural value. Contamination from PFAS, herbicides, Cadmium telluride, lead, PFOS, blade shedding of BPA, Hydrogen fluoride gas and decommissioning waste; are all threats to the health of our landscapes and people. These are consequences documented in Europe that will occur in Australia also as a result of this uncontrolled construction of renewable energy factories in highly inappropriate locations.

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act is linked to the Australian Constitution, and therefore international treaty obligations under the World Heritage, Ramsar and Biodiversity Conventions. Therefore the Commission is proposing an illegal policy framework in its call to amend and streamline the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act specifically for renewable energy projects. It is almost beyond belief that the Productivity Commission claims valuable outcomes from;

- Fast-tracking renewables by bypassing independent review.
- Reclassifying land as "industrial energy precincts," allowing development that would otherwise be prohibited.
- Hugely reducing already limited assessment obligations.
 - Removing the independent federal check that is meant to safeguard national environmental assets. (MNES)

The above 'reforms' violate the EPBC Act's core protections. This will then open a legal precedent for other industries to demand the same treatment, leading to collapse of environmental laws. In fact the proposals in the report will certainly meet fundamental legal obstacles. An attack on the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 collides with Australia's constitutional structure, principles, and international obligations.

Reclassifying agricultural land, native forest, or Indigenous land as "industrial energy precincts" will breach 51(xxxi) titution, which requires that acquisitions of property occur only on "just terms." Altering the EPBC Act to remove assessments on Renewable projects jeopardises Australia's compliance with international treaty agreements such as those connected with the Ramsar Convention, The Paris Agreement (regarding agricultural land) and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

These 'reforms' will trigger High Court challenge; constitutionally, administratively, and internationally.

I respectfully assert that the Productivity Commission's Interim Report is fundamentally unsound as well as being clearly unconstitutional. Erosion of natural capital, destabilisation of productive communities and destruction of our limited remaining areas of high biodiversity in the name of 'green energy' is actually criminal failure in governance and will be provable by consequences if this Report results in actual changes to litigation.