



Ensuring a Just & Equitable Transition

Insights from Australia

Just Transition Intersessional, Sydney, 30 September 2026

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About The Next Economy

We support communities to understand and manage the transition in ways that build economies that are climate resilient, regenerative and just by:

- Working in regions to build understanding of change and the capacity and willingness to act.
- Working with decision makers across government, industry and civil society to develop strategies, programs and policies to manage change.
- Connecting experts, investors and philanthropists to regional initiatives.
- Sharing the stories of what 'good' looks like through presentations, education activities and media engagement to inspire action.



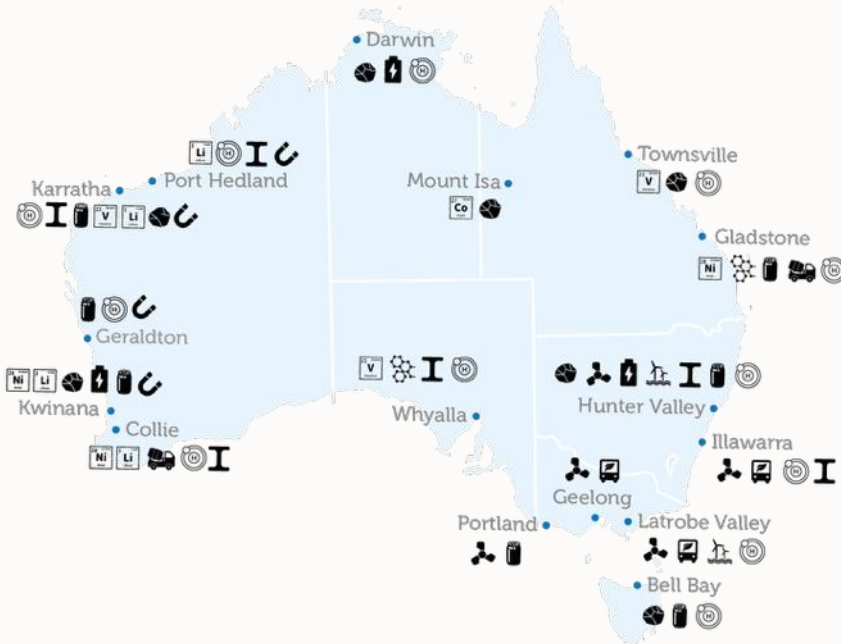
Managing Change for a Just and Equitable Transition

- Ensuring energy security and accessibility
- Workforce development
- Industrial transformation
- Economic diversification
- Managing impacts and capturing benefits
- Environmental protection and restoration



Renewable Energy Industrial Precincts Map

-  Nickel
-  Lithium
-  Cobalt
-  Vanadium
-  Rare Earth minerals (Lanthanides)
-  Graphite
-  Wind turbine manufacturing
-  Zero emission buses/EV manufacturing
-  Battery manufacturing
-  Low carbon cement
-  Offshore wind
-  Green iron
-  Green steel
-  Green alumina and aluminium
-  Renewable hydrogen



Source: Beyond Zero Emissions, 2026

Australian Government Transition Support

- Targets:
 - Emissions Reduction: 67-70% by 2035
 - Renewable Energy Target: 82% by 2030
- Plans and Strategies:
 - Future Made in Australia, Sector Decarbonisation Plans, National Hydrogen Strategy, Critical Minerals Strategy, First Nations, Clean Energy Strategy + +
- Legislation, regulation and accountability
- Institutional Support:
 - Net Zero Economy Authority, Climate Change Authority, CSIRO
- Partnerships with non-state actors:
 - Industry Groups, Trade Unions, NGOs (esp. Climate), Universities



Funding the Transition

- Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC): Australia's Green Bank (\$32.5bn capacity)
- Future Made in Australia (\$22.7bn over 10 years)
- Net Zero Fund (\$5bn): Concessional and low-cost finance to support industrial decarbonisation
- Rewiring Australia: Concessional and low-cost loans to states for transmission grids
- Hydrogen Headstart: Revenue support via production credits
- Capacity Investment Scheme: Revenue underwriting through competitive tender process
- Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA): Grants for R&D, pre-commercialisation and innovation
 - Powering the Regions Fund: Grant to incentivise industry to decarbonize
 - Solar Sunshot: Grants and other finance to support manufacturing across solar supply chain
- Other grants and direct funding: infrastructure, services, training and apprenticeship schemes, state owned enterprises, SMEs
- Investor Front Door: Concierge service
- Net Zero Economy Authority: No fund attached, but role in connecting regions to finance
- Targets and criteria: Eg: Capacity Investment Scheme, Safeguard Mechanism, ACCUs
- Philanthropy

A Just Transition for Industrial Regions

- Highly carbon intensive industries with pending closures to impact thousands of workers
- Fossil fuel export revenue dependence
- Opportunities in critical minerals processing and green manufacturing
- Gladstone Regional Council 10-Year Roadmap (2022):
 - Local government-led over 2 years
 - Participatory planning approach involving government, industry, Traditional Owners, trade unions, environment groups, social services, training organisations
 - RE and green manufacturing attracted international investor interest and additional \$2bn in first 6 months
 - Identified actions to ensure marginalised groups benefit: Maternity and care services, First Nations partnerships with industry, youth engagement in design of career pathways
 - Local insights informed state and Federal government policies



A Just Transition for Agricultural Communities

- Context: severe climate impacts, high energy and fertilizer costs, large-scale renewable energy developments and trade requirements to reduce emissions.
- Opportunities in new land management approaches, climate finance and renewable energy to diversify farm income.
- Hay Shire Council:
 - Climate Resilience Plan
 - Renewable Energy Framework (RE Alliance)
 - Transition Roadmap to diversify regional economy and develop investment priorities by building on strengths as reduce emissions
 - New investment in housing and infrastructure
 - Local capacity built to to address challenges



A Just Transition for Indigenous Peoples

Challenges in remaining on Country – climate impacts, living standards, large scale extractive industries.

Opportunities to generate new economic opportunities and address existing inequalities from climate action.

The work of the First Nations Clean Energy Network and Original Power:

- Energy access and affordability
- Local training and employment
- Economic sovereignty – equity and ownership
- Upholding land and cultural rights
- Designing policy and investment frameworks for systems wide change



BORROLOOLA BASKS IN SUN POWER

AN EXCITING PROJECT ON INDIGENOUS LAND COULD SERVE AS A BLUEPRINT FOR A RENEWABLE ENERGY ROLL-OUT IN REMOTE COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA.



Words by TQ Staff

Published 17 July 2025



Lessons from the Australian Context

- Every place and group is different, so need support and leadership at local level to co-design strategies and solutions.
- Local action needs support from well-resourced bodies to facilitate coordination, access to expertise, investment and implementation.
- Planning approaches that are holistic, participatory, and focused on long-term development more likely to attract new investment, generate new economic opportunities and increase ambition.
- Just and equitable outcomes do not happen on their own: need targets, standards, regulation and frameworks and to invest in what delivers wellbeing (ie: infrastructure, services, education, healthy environment, social protection, etc).
- Role of civil society is crucial in engagement and decision-making processes to ensure implementation and accountability.
- Co-designing with and for the most impacted groups means better outcomes for everyone



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