



Ensuring Just Outcomes in Industrial Regions

Insights from Australia

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About The Next Economy

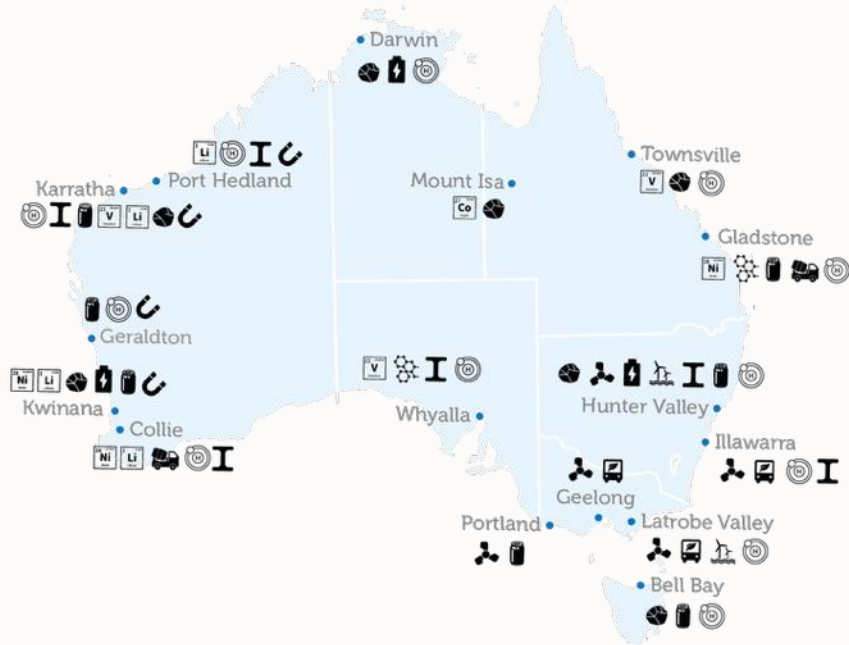
We support communities to understand and manage the transition in ways that build economies that are climate resilient, regenerative and just by:

- 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.



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 Support for Industrial Transition

- Emissions Reduction: 67-70% by 2035
- Renewable Energy Target: 82% by 2030
- Future Made in Australia Plan (\$22.7bn over 10 years)
- Safeguard Mechanism
- Multiple Funds: National Reconstruction, Rewiring Australia, Clean Energy Finance Corporation, ARENA, NAIF (and more)
- Net Zero Economy Authority



Worker Engagement & Support

- Three-year notice of closure requirement
- Enterprise bargaining between companies and workers (both private and state-owned)
- Energy Industry Jobs Plan overseen by the Net Zero Economy Authority
- Worker support for:
 - Training
 - Employment and career planning
 - Early retirement and redundancy payments
 - Financial planning
 - Redeployment
- Australian Fair Work Commission oversight
- Gaps in supporting other sectors and under-represented groups



Engaging Decision Makers in Managing the Transition

- All levels of government (local, state and federal), industry, unions, Traditional Owners (Indigenous leaders), environment NGOs, education & training sector, investors, community organisations
- Engagement to plan holistically for all aspects of transition (energy, industry adaptation and logistics, infrastructure development, workforce, community impacts/benefits, environmental regeneration)
- Co-design engagement approach with local partners
- Roundtables, forums, workshops, interviews, research, reports
- Ongoing support is needed (capacity building, staff, funding, networks) for local organisations so can adapt over time
- Need for 2-way flow of information to inform decisions at all levels, in an iterative way



Engaging Community Members

- Not enough to engage decision makers. Communities need to understand the changes in their communities and be part of co-designing the solutions *in an ongoing way*.
- General public, particularly women, Indigenous peoples, young people, workers across all sectors, small businesses, vulnerable groups - low-income households, elderly, people living with disabilities, people from non-English speaking backgrounds.
- Mixture of activities, including forums, workshops, surveys, social media, visual, field trips, informal conversations, joining existing community activities.
- Activities designed and resourced so participation is easy, accessible and safe.
- Partnering with local organisations to build their capacity and resources to continue engagement and advocate for community needs



Lessons from the Australian Context

- Every place and group is different, so need to co-design approach and the solutions with participants
- Planning approaches that are holistic, participatory, iterative and focused on long-term regional development (beyond the needs of directly impacted workers and industries) generate greater and more diverse economic outcomes
- Just outcomes require investing in what delivers wellbeing and resilience for everyone – infrastructure, services, education, healthy environment. (= Designing for the most vulnerable)
- New, well-resourced governance structures and processes are needed to support coordination and implementation
- Role of civil society is crucial in engagement and decision-making processes to ensure implementation and accountability
- Just and equitable outcomes do not happen on their own: need targets, standards, regulation and frameworks



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