

POLICY FUTURES

A Reform Agenda



Zero Carbon Communities: A blueprint for clean energy transitions

Over 70 countries have pledged a net-zero emission target by 2050 under the United Nations Climate Ambition Alliance.

While much attention has focused on the role of corporate and state actors toward decarbonisation, some Australian communities are leading a bottom up net-zero emissions transition to become energy self-sufficient and spearhead the fight against climate change.

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Key Policy Recommendations

1

Federal Government stimulus:

- Initiate a Zero Carbon Lighthouse Communities stimulus package from the Federal Government to support the 15 leading communities tackling climate change and/or bushfire impacted communities to reach zero-net emissions.
- Establish a Community Energy Target and feed-in tariff to stimulate mid-scale community energy.

2

State and territory governments:

- Establish a Zero Carbon Communities program which would support five communities each year to develop a masterplan, and provide on-the-ground resourcing for implementation over three years (in lieu of federal government action).
- Authorise a state-level mandate for local governments to work with their communities to deliver community wide masterplans for reaching zero-net emissions and to set science-based targets.
- Establish a Community Energy Target and feed-in tariff to stimulate mid-scale community energy (in lieu of Federal Government action).

3

Local governments:

- Provide backbone support for community wide activities on reducing emissions.

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