



FAIRER, CHEAPER, CLEANER FIXING AUSTRALIA'S ENERGY SYSTEM

The Greens' plan for an independent Energy Savings Agency

Our electricity system is in bad shape. Power bills have skyrocketed in recent years, mainly because of unnecessary investment in new poles and wires. Meanwhile, huge opportunities to save energy and reduce 'peak' electricity demand have been ignored.

The old parties know that these problems exist, but they lack the courage to stand up to the big energy companies and State Governments to take cost pressure off Australians and cut pollution.

MAKING OUR ENERGY SYSTEM FAIRER, CHEAPER & CLEANER

These problems are complex but we need a cut-through solution. That's why we're announcing our plan for an independent Energy Savings Agency, which would work to fix Australia's energy network.

The Energy Savings Agency will have three priorities:

- **Help Australians generate their own power with a fair price for clean energy they produce**, for example from rooftop solar systems.
- **Bring down power bills by achieving \$1 billion in energy savings every year**, comprising of avoided network investment and customer energy savings.
- **Design a National Energy Efficiency Scheme**, expanding three existing state-based schemes to save energy and money at home and work.

The Energy Savings Agency will make Australia's energy system fairer, cheaper and cleaner, and cut the pollution that drives global warming. It will bypass major barriers to a better system, and provide independent information, analysis, advocacy and financial support for solutions, such as:

Around a quarter of a power bill pays for infrastructure that caters to peak demand for just 40 hours a year.

CUTTING POWER BILLS BY CUTTING PEAK DEMAND

Demand for electricity in peak periods has led to unnecessary spending on 'poles and wires', driving up power bills. Big energy companies and several State Governments want to maximise profit from their generators and distribution systems. Selling less electricity is not in their interest. That is why reform of the electricity market is too slow and why intervention is essential.

The Energy Savings Agency will urgently reduce the growth in peak electricity demand by negotiating ambitious Peak Demand Management targets with electricity network businesses, to achieve the target of \$1 billion per annum in energy savings.

To help achieve this, the Energy Savings Agency will manage a \$400 million per annum Demand Management Fund. The Fund will quickly but cost-effectively moderate peak demand by purchasing activities from third parties that reduce peak demand, either by using less energy during peak hours, or by shifting energy use to off-peak periods.

PAYING AUSTRALIANS FAIRLY FOR THEIR CLEAN ENERGY

More than one million Australians have already installed solar panels on their homes and businesses. Still more are taking control of their energy with community renewables, wind microturbines and more. In the current system, the big energy companies are lobbying furiously against attempts to pay them fairly and are often refusing to grant access to the grid, because they have a strong incentive to discourage independent generation.

The Energy Savings Agency will recommend the genuinely fair prices that electricity retailers should offer for distributed power generation. The Government will then be required to either compel all electricity retailers to offer at least the rate recommended by the Agency, or publish a comprehensive statement of reasons why they have failed to do so.