



THE HON JOSH FRYDENBERG MP
Minister for the Environment and Energy

MEDIA RELEASE

10 May 2018

**LABOR GETTING INCREASINGLY DESPERATE
ON JOBS & RENEWABLES**

Mark Butler's latest feeble attempts to criticise the Government's record on renewable energy and jobs brings to mind the old aphorism: *Better to remain silent and be thought misinformed, than to speak and remove all doubt.*

Mr Butler, who hasn't ask a question of me in the Parliament for over 200 days, claims:

- The Government is 'anti-renewables' and undermining renewable jobs.
- The Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) is reducing its investment plans in the Budget papers due to the Government having a 'war on renewables' and the National Energy Guarantee.

But here are the facts:

- Almost one million jobs have been created in the economy since the Coalition was elected and 2017 was the **strongest year of jobs growth on record**. Our record on jobs is clear.
- Jobs in the renewable energy sector **increased 33 per cent** last year, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Jobs in large-scale renewable energy are at their **highest on record**.
- Renewable energy sector jobs **fell under Labor** by 13 per cent or 2,500 in their last year in office.
- Last year, was Australia's **biggest ever year** for renewables and more than \$12 billion and more than 7,000 megawatts of investment is now underway, according the Clean Energy Regulator.
- According to Bloomberg New Energy Finance, in 2017, Australia was the world's **third highest** clean energy investor on a per capita basis – four the investment per capita of China, five times France.
- The CEFC used identical forecast figures in this year's Budget as last year's Budget – before the NEG even existed.
- The CEFC has confirmed there has been no change in the CEFC's forecast of commitments or anticipated draws from the CEFC Special Account as a result of the NEG.

Rather than increasingly desperate dog whistling to its left flank, Labor should be explaining to the Australian people:

- Why it wants to put Australian jobs at risk with its reckless emissions reduction targets that it has no idea or plan how to reach?
- Why is it abandoning 900,000 jobs in Australia's manufacturing sector with its policies to increase prices and decrease reliability?
- Why it wants to take South Australian Labor's failed 50 per cent renewable energy target experiment national?
- Why it joined with the Greens in the Senate to pass a motion to "encourage" the closure of coal-fired power stations, selling out blue-collared workers in regional Australia for inner city green votes?

Ends