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Federal Budget 2021: Australia's green recovery failure costs jobs

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S failure to fund a clean recovery from COVID-19 is a national shame and a lost opportunity to create jobs, the Climate Council said ahead of the Federal Budget.

Data from the [Global Recovery Observatory](#) shows that Australia has spent US\$130 billion on COVID recovery efforts but less than two percent of that money has been spent on solutions to reduce emissions.

In contrast, Germany and France allocated 47% and 50% of their respective recovery spending to clean solutions.

"Among major economies and our strategic allies, Australia is right at the bottom of the pack when it comes to spending on solutions that reduce emissions, create jobs and strengthen our economy," said Climate Council spokesperson and economist Nicki Hutley.

"The Federal Government continues to throw taxpayers' money at polluting industries of the past like gas which provides very few jobs. It should be focused on creating good, clean jobs in renewables," she said.

Pre-budget announcements include \$58.6 million for gas expansion, and support for carbon capture and storage and hydrogen from fossil fuels as part of a \$540 million package.

"The consequences of Australia's climate inaction are catching up with us, as the EU and USA contemplate carbon border adjustment taxes that could see expensive tariffs slapped on many Australian exports," said Ms Hutley.

The Climate Council's [Clean Jobs Plan](#) outlines how we can create 76,000 jobs in the short term while setting Australia up for the future and tackling long-term problems like climate change.

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The Climate Council is Australia's leading community-funded climate change communications organisation. We provide authoritative, expert and evidence-based advice on climate change to journalists, policymakers, and the wider Australian community.

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APPENDIX: Comparing Australia's 'Recovery Spending' to the rest of the world
[\(Numbers from the Global Recovery Observatory\)](#)

Country	2030 emissions reduction target	'Green' recovery spending (US\$)	'Green' recovery spending, as a % of total recovery spending	Total recovery spending (US\$)	Total recovery spending, as a % of GDP
Australia	26-28% below 2005 levels	2.3bn	1.8%	129.7bn	9.3%
UK	68% below 1990	62.7bn	16.6%	377.8bn	13.4%
Germany	55% below 1990 (may be boosted to 65% today)	46.5bn	47.3%	98.3bn	2.6%
France	55% below 1990	55.0bn	50.1%	109.8bn	4%
US	50-52% below 2005	9.6bn	25.5%	37.7bn	0.2%
Canada	40-45% below 2005	10.7bn	39.5%	27.1bn	1.6%
Japan	46% below 2013	23.6bn	12.3%	192.5bn	3.8%
China	Peak emissions before 2030	51.0bn	12.2%	416.8bn	2.9%

India	33-35% reduction in emissions intensity	3.6bn	23.2%	16bn	0.54%
World	-	408.9bn	20.1%	2,037.2bn	