

# POLICY STATEMENT

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## Cheaper, Greener Electricity

### **Grid stability**

The Country Liberal Party supports the target of sourcing 50% of our energy from renewable sources by 2030 as long as this does not increase prices nor disrupt reliability.

While all power systems are different, it is evident that system reliability and security requirements increase significantly with the introduction of large amounts of renewables. The Energy Policy Institute of Australia concludes that in most power systems, the practical limit for intermittent (for example, solar) power generation is around 40% of total electricity generated.<sup>1</sup>

This is why a Country Liberal Government will task the Utilities Commission to conduct a full cost/benefit analysis with recommendations on these issues, as previously announced.

### **Rooftop solar**

The Northern Territory is the best place to install rooftop solar panels in Australia. The utilisation of batteries in conjunction with solar panels will add stability to the grid and save consumers substantial money on their electricity bills, but those batteries can be expensive. Therefore, a Country Liberal Government will double the current incentives to install batteries with rooftop power from \$6,000 to \$12,000.

### **Efficient administration and cost savings**

Our publicly-owned utility companies need to be run efficiently. The Australian Energy Regulator (AER) released its independent, expert determination in 2019 and found that Power Water Corporation needs to achieve greater efficiencies to bring down electricity prices. The AER concluded that Power Water Corporation's network costs could be lowered by 10 per cent over five years without any decrease in quality, reliability, security or safety of services. Network charges make up about 44 per cent of the average household bill and 35 per cent of the average small business bill. The AER determined that this could result in a \$225 decrease in electricity charges per residential household in 2019-20 alone. Labor has ignored this determination, and the Country Liberal Party will ensure that Power Water Corporation meets or exceeds the requirements of the AER Determination in its first term of Government.

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<sup>1</sup>. Energy Policy Institute of Australia, Public Policy Paper 6/2016, THE "PRESSURE COOKER" EFFECT OF INTERMITTENT RENEWABLE GENERATION IN POWER SYSTEMS, pg.4

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While these savings will not be passed on to consumers by the Labor Government, the CLP would consider doing so in future years.

### **Government investment in renewables**

The Country Liberal Party believes that to be serious about renewables while maintaining a government owned generation company, then Territory Generation must be included in the deployment of renewables. At present, government policy is to own a 100% fossil fuel based generation company. A Country Liberal Government will therefore remove the ban on Territory Generation investing in renewables.

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Specifically, a Country Liberal Government will:

1. Increase the incentives to install batteries with rooftop power from \$6,000 to \$12,000.
2. Ensure that power and water prices for residential customers are fixed at 2020 levels for four years.
3. Maintain public ownership of Power Water Corporation, Jacana Energy and Territory Generation.
4. Ensure that Power and Water meets or exceeds the requirements of the AER Determination in its first term of Government, lowering network costs and passing on savings to consumers where possible.
5. Allow Territory Generation to invest in renewable energy.