



JUNE 2023

THE PROSPECTOR

MEMBER COUNCILS INTERNAL MONTHLY UPDATE

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AUSTRALIAN MINING CITIES ALLIANCE

SUBMISSION TO CLIMATE CHANGE AUTHORITY

Further to direct engagement with senior officers of the Climate Change Authority earlier this year the Board approved a submission to the authority in response to a recently released discussion paper titled "Setting, tracking and achieving Australia's emissions reduction targets". Importantly, as AMCA has advocated, the discussion paper includes information and questions about "Wellbeing: Progress towards a just transition and resilient nation".

AVIATION WHITE PAPER

The Commonwealth Government has embarked on a process to examine issues across the aviation sector. It is anticipated that a submission will be made following the release of its Green Paper. Of

particular interest for AMCA in the White Paper Terms of Reference is a focus on the role of airlines and airports in supporting regional economies.

NETWORKING IN CANBERRA

During their attendance at the ALGA National General Assembly, the Chair and Directors networked actively on behalf of AMCA including a dinner with the Hon Madeleine King MP Minister for Resources and Northern Australia hosted by the Hon Milton Dick MP Speaker of the House of Representatives attended by the Chair Phil Barwick and Deputy Chair Anne Baker.

During his visit to Canberra the Executive Officer Gary Stevenson PSM and his successor Gavin Cator, visited relevant officers of the following to introduce the new Executive Officer and to advance

communication on key advocacy issues; Minister Madeleine King, Minister Kristy McBain, Minister Chris Bowen, Minister Julie Collins, Senator Bridget McKenzie, Senator Susan McDonald, Australian Local Government Association, Minerals Council of Australia and Climate Change Authority.

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE MINING (TSM) ADVISORY PANEL

In November 2023, the Minerals Council of Australia accepted AMCA's nomination of Mayor Peter Long to represent communities on their TSM National Stakeholder Advisory Panel. The Panel was convened on-line for its first introductory meeting recently.

PARLIAMENTARY ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS



Directors and the Executive Officer held meetings in Canberra on 15 June as follows;

- Meeting with the Hon Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Climate Change and Energy and the Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and the Territories, and

- Meeting with the Hon Madeleine King MP, Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia.

Topics included; National Net Zero Authority, Net Zero Economy impact reporting, Powering the Regions Fund, National Reconstruction Fund, Safeguard Mechanism, Critical Minerals Strategy and Affordable Housing. Ministers were receptive to the points raised by AMCA representatives. AMCA appreciates the initiative of Minister McBain and the efforts of her advisor to facilitate the meetings.

MORE THAN MINING CAMPAIGN

The More Than Mining campaign is inactive at present having achieved its goal of raising awareness of the proposed FBT concession reforms.

The Board considered the future of the campaign (likely to be very active in the next government election) and resolved that the campaign should be hosted by one of the funding Councils rather than AMCA.

The Board acknowledged the work of campaign organiser the Hon Brendon Grylls and his team.

OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE CHANGES

With the revision of its Terms of Reference the Operational Committee will see some changes.

Comprised of the CEO/GM's of each Member Council the Committee will now play a strategic role and its Chair will play

a more active role in strategically guiding the Executive Officer. The Committee Chair will also be linked with the Board

Chair's appointment with the same period of tenure and from the same Council.

STEEL, IRON ORE AT 'MAJOR CROSSROADS' FOR DECARBONISING

As the world's largest iron ore producer, Australia could put the world's steel sector on the fast track to net zero.

Rather than shipping raw ore, Australia could export pellets and briquettes of green iron made using hydrogen derived from local, cheap, abundant clean electricity.

Rapidly overhauling the industry could also boost global climate ambition by allowing countries to ratchet up emission reduction targets, according to international research released on Thursday.

Up-ending expectations of a

long, costly pathway for green steel, the report by German think tank Agora Industrie and Wuppertal Institute found the sector has the technology to swiftly decarbonise.

"The technologies and strategies required to reach net zero are already there - now governments and companies need to combine their efforts to deploy them fast," Agora director Frank Peter said.

So far, carbon capture and storage (CCS) of emissions from coal-based steelmaking has been at the heart of most steel decarbonisation scenarios.

However, that is debunked by Agora's research, which gives CCS an uncertain future in low-emission steel production. If the steel sector was a country, it would be the third-largest emitter and the second-largest coal consumer.

But rather than dismissing steel made without coal furnaces as too expensive, the sector could be one of the first heavy industries to reach net zero.

Mr Peter said it was technically feasible to phase out coal blast furnaces by the 2040s, but the 2020s represented a "major crossroads"

for getting there.

The iron and steel sector is already responsible for eight per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, which are forecast to rise this decade without action.

And if steel companies in industrialised countries don't improve on their net-zero-by-2050 targets, then limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees is in doubt, the research found.

More from MARION RAE | AAP >>> <https://thewest.com.au/business/steel-iron-ore-at-major-crossroads-for-decarbonising-c-10987631>

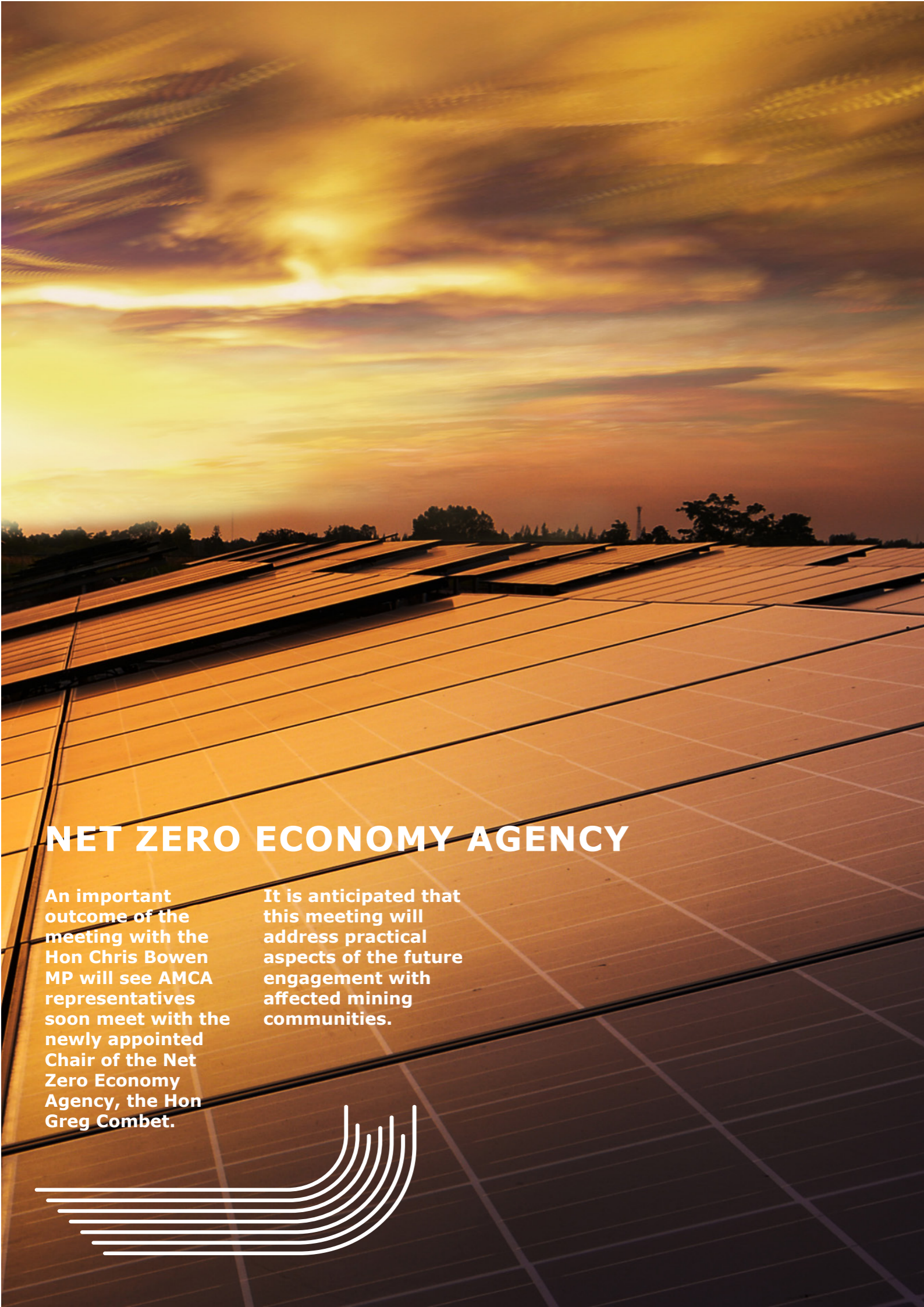
REVISED MEMBERSHIP POLICY

The Membership Policy has been amended to allow for up to ten Class 1 Member Councils each with one

appointed Director. Previously it was limited to five Member Councils each with two appointed Directors.

The main objective of the change is to make membership more attractive to prospective members.

A fresh membership drive will ensue in the coming months.



NET ZERO ECONOMY AGENCY

An important outcome of the meeting with the Hon Chris Bowen MP will see AMCA representatives soon meet with the newly appointed Chair of the Net Zero Economy Agency, the Hon Greg Combet.

It is anticipated that this meeting will address practical aspects of the future engagement with affected mining communities.



KALGOORLIE GOLD UNVEILS MORE WA GOLD, LITHIUM

Kalgoorlie Gold Mining has identified gold and lithium anomalies in a first-pass 315 auger hole program at the wholly owned Pianto project 85km north of Kalgoorlie.

Samples were taken from surficial transported material in an area of limited outcrop in a campaign targeting gold in granite and lithium pegmatites.

The fresh gold

anomalism up to 23 parts per billion is located along the southern margin of a fault-related northwest striking demagnetised zone.

Lithium anomalies up to 60 parts per million mirror tantalum, niobium and tin anomalies turned up along the northwest striking fault structure, whilst outcropping pegmatites were found at two locations near

lithium anomalies along with minerals tentatively identified as spodumene.

The auger drilling program was spaced at 400m by 200m and covered a northwest trending 11km by 3km area that was centred on a magnetic low associated with an interpreted northwest trending fault.

The area has transported surficial granite sand cover

which KalGold says leads to the low-level anomalism being of direct interest, especially when the anomalies are coherent and extensive.

The new lithium anomalies are parallel to those of gold but lie some 1km to the northeast.

More from Matt Birney | The West Australian >>> <https://thewest.com.au/business/public-companies/kalgoorlie-gold-unveils-more-wa-gold-lithium-c-9845872>



EXECUTIVE OFFICER HANDOVER

During mid-June the current Executive Officer, Gary Stevenson PSM spent time with his

replacement Gavin Cator in Canberra as a handover to the role. Gavin will be well informed and

equipped ready to commence his new role on 1 July.

**ANNE BAKER
MAYOR OF ISAAC
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Isaac Regional Council is strongly advocating about ensuring our communities are set up to embrace a future in a changing world.

Council has been working with the Queensland Government to ensure consistent coal royalties' investment happens in the Isaac region.

The recent Queensland Government budget announcement outlined funding of \$120 million for resource communities.

Isaac successfully secured \$43 million from this commitment.

It will be for priority commitments to the Isaac Resources Excellence Hub and the upgrade of Phillips Creek Bridge near Dysart.

This funding win for resource regions hasn't come by accident.

It has followed years of advocating on behalf of our Isaac communities.



unlock innovation and access to technology to support research into mine rehabilitation and decarbonisation.

It will also deliver education and reskilling opportunities at the coalface.

This announcement follows critical new Moranbah Hospital investment to service the Bowen and Galilee basins, the beating heart of Queensland's resources.

What makes me proud as we start 2023, Council successfully advocated for nearly \$90 million in the past 12 months for 23 local projects through state and federal partnerships.

Behind the scenes we've been strongly advocating for improving health services, jobs and transformation, mining and renewable project frameworks regional connectivity and social sustainability.

There's a lot of work that we will continue through this year to make sure the Isaac region secures futures for 17 of our unique communities.

The return of royalties is important to regions like ours especially when Isaac coal mines continue to support the growth and prosperity of Queensland and the nation.

Council has advocated for the Phillips Creek Bridge replacement project to both the Queensland and Australian governments for several years.

The bridge on Saraji Road is a key link between Dysart and Moranbah that provides access to several coal mines and for community safety.

The total funding, Council has received is \$14.4 million budgeted by the Australian Government and \$3.6 million budgeted from the Queensland Government.

The Isaac Resources Excellence Hub's vision is to help



**REINVESTMENT INTO
RESOURCE COMMUNITIES
THAT ALWAYS BACK
QUEENSLAND**

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING – A MINING GIRLS' PERSPECTIVE

The mining world hasn't always been on my radar, I actually fell, crashed and banged into mining by accident when I was given the opportunity to work as a contracted health officer for Barrick Gold, outside of Leinster in WA. It was this life changing role that molded my outlook of the mining world and what the possible mental struggles people go through to keep a 24/7 operation moving.

When I started my mining career, I was working an 8:6/4:3 roster and boy oh boy did those first couple swings kick me in the stomach. I honestly had no idea what I was getting myself into. That first fly in day felt like a fog was hanging over me, as if I was in a different country trying to find my way without a map.

No matter how many friendly people I met, I felt lost and insecure. I would stumble through my days trying to get my head around pre starts, safety meetings,

handover days, plods, inductions, and understanding all of the site roles and their physical components; From hanging vent bag in the basket to throwing bolts for the jumbo – which I had to learn very quickly to keep my Jumbo Operator happy!

This all while trying to ensure all my health programs were relevant to the wide variety of people on site. From the engineer that thinks they know everything (#frankpellicano) to the 30 year veteran air leg miner that doesn't have many health interests beyond staying hydrated at the wetmess. These were some challenging times, both mentally and physically. After a 14-hour shift, the last thing I wanted to do was go to the gym, even if I knew it would be good for me.

That hot, humid, smelly, loud beast constantly chewing and grinding away the (mostly) ore brought up from the underground. But as most things go, I found my way with the help of people onsite

and my friends back in Perth, and soon I was my weird, health obsessed self, screaming my "gee whiskers and holly molly's", quoting affirmations as I went through my new life.

Mining is a crazy world to be in and people don't truly understand until they are in the thick of it. I have gone from working on a mine site as a single, very naïve girl (oh boy did I make some mistakes) with no knowledge of mining except what I had googled. To having a partner that works a site-based roster, juggling two young boys, while I continue my mining career based in Perth. It does not matter what part of mining you are in, there will always be a challenge that needs to be talked out, focused on, or redirected.

I am a strong believer that mining companies are run by families, from the people working on sites to corporate offices, to the husbands, wives, mums and dads, kids, and friends at home,

and when all the family members feel connected and supported that is when the magic will happen. I am incredibly grateful for all the opportunities, learnings and challenges that mining has provided. From the site 'mums' that looked after me like I was their own flesh and blood, the CEO that believed we all can make a difference, the manager that had bold ideas about flexible work even before I believed I could make it work, and the incredible people I continue to meet. I thank you all for the incredible gift you have all given me on this crazy journey of mining, and I look forward to the great things we can all achieve together in the years to come.

Written by Health, Wellbeing and Injury Management Specialist Davina Pellicano >>> <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/mental-health-wellbeing-mining-girls-perspective-davina-pellicano/>

BOARD MEETING

The Board conducted its meeting in Canberra (and by videoconference) on 15 June and adopted the following (and many others);

- 2023/24-25/26 Draft Budget,
- 2023/24 Membership fees,
- Appointment of Mayor Tom Kennedy as Alternate Director to Jim Hickey, and
- Operational Committee Terms of Reference.

ADVOCACY PRIORITIES UPDATED

Following a review by the Operational Committee the Board recently adopted a revised set of advocacy priorities for the next 6-12 months.

The main change included a focus on the development and operation of the Commonwealth Government's National Net Zero Authority.

NEXT MEETING IN MOUNT ISA

The next Board meeting will be convened in Mount Isa along with the Annual General Meeting of Members. The meeting will be held on 19

September on the same day that the Queensland Miners Memorial Day will be conducted in Mount Isa. The Miners Memorial Day Service

is held on 19 September each year.

This date marks the anniversary of the state's worst mining disaster where 75 miners

lost their lives in a coal mine at Mount Mulligan in 1921.

Mount Isa also celebrates its centenary this year.

AUSTRALIA COULD BE DECARBONISATION 'SUPERPOWER'



Australia could become a superpower in the global transition to decarbonisation according to the final modelling results of the Pathways to Net Zero report recently released by Net Zero Australia.

According to the group, a partnership of the University of Melbourne, University of Queensland, Princeton University's Andlinger Centre for Energy and Environment, and international management consultancy Nous Group, the nation will need to attract and invest \$7-9 trillion of capital to 2060 if we seriously want to get to net zero.

Speaking at the launch of the final

modelling results summary, chair of the Net Zero Australia Steering Committee, Emeritus Professor Robin Batterham, said the group is "not pushing a preferred pathway, rather we are illustrating a range of potential pathways" to net zero.

Chief among the insights on what it would take is the need to grow renewable energy production as Australia's chief domestic and export market energy source. Katherin Domansky, who sits on Net Zero Australia's independent Steering Committee, agreed renewable energy has great advantages in providing a more sustainable source of

energy to Australia and the world.

Chief among the economic benefits she sees from a net zero transition is "decarbonisation will provide up to 700,000 direct jobs, mainly in regional and rural Australia".

"However, renewables need much more land area than fossil fuels to produce a given amount of energy. The area required to tap our renewable resources overlaps the lands of First Nations as well as that required by farming communities, and land with biodiversity value.

"Careful management will be needed to minimise adverse impacts, share

benefits with affected communities and achieve a net gain in biodiversity," Domansky said.

While the journey to a low carbon energy future is ongoing, the good news is many Australians are already embracing the move to renewables with the Australian Energy Regulator's most recent Wholesale Markets Quarterly report highlighting large-scale solar output achieved an all-time quarterly record and was up 22 per cent on a year earlier.

Read more >>>
<https://www.afr.com/companies/energy/australia-could-be-decarbonisation-superpower-20230531-p5dcq7>