



ELECTRICAL TRADES UNION OF AUSTRALIA
POWERING THE FUTURE

18 April 2024

Re: Net Zero Economy Authority Bill 2024

To whom it may concern,

The Electrical Trades Union of Australia ('the ETU')¹ is the principal union for electrical and electrotechnology tradespeople and apprentices in Australia, representing well over sixty-thousand workers around the country. The ETU has members in the fossil fuel industries that have powered our country to become what it is today. The establishment of the net zero authority will provide needed certainty from the government and the energy sector to allow them to plan for their futures. The electricians and electrical workforce we represent will be critical to the decarbonization of the economy.

As an affiliate member of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, the ETU fully supports and has made contributions to the ACTU's submission to this Inquiry. The ETU supports the establishment of a new, national, independent Net Zero Economy Authority (NZEa) tasked with promoting an orderly, positive, and just transition to a net zero economy and energy system.

Recommendations:

Given the urgency of the just transition challenge, and the critical importance of the mandate outlined above, the ETU recommends that the Net Zero Economy Authority Bill 2024 is passed in full, subject to recommendations outlined in the ACTU's submission, including:

1. Receiving employers should be incentivised to participate in pooled redeployment schemes—but with conditions attached.
2. Engage the Fair Work Commission in Dispute Resolutions
3. Strengthen the Civil Penalty Provision
4. Allow for review of CEO applications for a Community of Interest.

The ETU notes that the legislation includes a 12-month review of the Bill. This review must look to expanding the scope of the Authority to include workers in new industries associated with the decarbonisation of the economy.

Yours Sincerely,

Michael Wright

¹ Being a division of the CEPU, a trade union registered under the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* (Cth).