

Submission to

Joint Standing Committee on

Trade and Investment Growth

into

Australia's transition to

a green energy superpower

Issues Needing to be Addressed

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This submission flags issues that have to be addressed in the transition.

A. Life Span and Disposal

- What happens to solar panels and wind turbines at the end of their 20 odd years of life?
 - Do they go into landfill?
 - Do the metals in their construction leak into the soil?
 - Are these metals toxic to humans?

B. Protection of Endangered Birds and Bats

- Wind turbines blades kill birds and bats.
- In siting wind farms, care has to be taken that the wind farm is not in the path of migrating birds and bats, particularly endangered species.

C. Limited resources for components of solar panels and wind farms

- The transition to a green energy super power can only occur if there are the resources to build
 - the solar panels
 - wind farms
 - batteries
 - chips
- A consideration should also be how the resources are obtained. For example cobalt is mined in the Congo by child labour.

It should not be beyond the resources and expertise of the Joint Parliamentary Committee to research and answer these questions.