



## **Submission to Senate Standing Committees on Economics Legislation Committee**

### **Economic Recovery Package (JobMaker Hiring Credit) Amendment Bill 2020 [Provisions]**

#### **Tomorrow Movement**

Tomorrow Movement is an unstoppable movement of young people fighting for a society with good jobs, great public services and a safe climate for all. In September, we mobilised young people nationally as part of the #NoTurningBack day of action demanding a recovery that works for all of us, not just big business.

We are an active voice on youth issues, economic and climate justice with many of our members directly affected by COVID-related job losses, the cuts to JobSeeker and JobKeeper and the proposed JobMaker legislation. Job losses due to Covid have been concentrated among young people, with data from Melbourne University shows that almost one in three (28%) workers aged 18-24 lost their jobs.

#### **JobMaker is a business handout, not an employment solution**

Tomorrow Movement is opposed to JobMaker. It is simply a handout to big business when what we need is the government to invest directly in creating public jobs and providing a livable income for the 6.9% of Australians currently unable to find work.

This scheme is likely to be taken up widely by the big businesses who have profited off schemes like Jobkeeper like Dominos Pizza. We believe that any jobs created through JobMaker are likely to be short term, low paid, will not improve young peoples' skills and chances of obtaining future work and are likely to displace older workers. If the aim of the program was truly to create jobs, the government could be directly creating jobs. Instead JobMaker puts the power for how we rebuild out of

this crisis in the hands of business instead of in the hands of the public.

### **Young people want public jobs that build our future**

The climate crisis is here and the decisions we make today will decide the fate of our generations and all generations that follow. These decisions are far too important to be left in the hands of big business and companies that have a vested interest in delaying the necessary action to reduce emissions and other necessary measures to solve the climate crisis.

Instead of handouts to big business we are demanding the government invest directly in creating public jobs that serve our community and do the necessary work to solve the climate crisis. We believe that a Climate Jobs Guarantee provides a better framework for creating jobs for young people, rebuilding our country from the Covid-19 crisis and doing the necessary work to solve the climate crisis and improve the lives of everyday people all across the country.

The Climate Job Guarantee framework must be fleshed out in consultation with civil society, First Nations Groups, unions and local communities. We encourage this committee to begin investigations into how a Climate Job Guarantee could be implemented inline with the following criteria:

1. *Good jobs for everyone who wants one:*

Millions of people can't find as much work as they want and the threat of unemployment is used by big business to force us to accept poorly paid and insecure working conditions.

A Climate Jobs Guarantee must guarantee anyone — regardless of age, education levels or location — a permanent, unionised job that pays a living wage. These jobs will have leave entitlements and can be full or part time based on the needs of the person looking for work, raising the standards of work for all workers.

2. *Urgent, coordinated action to solve the climate crisis:*

The climate crisis is the fight of our lives and there is no shortage of work to be done for the urgent, large-scale action that's needed to solve it.

The jobs created by a Climate Jobs Guarantee must be meaningful work that enriches and serves our communities, gets us to 100% clean and renewable energy by 2030 and manages the climate impacts we can no longer avoid.

3. *Meaningful work that cares for our communities as decided by our communities:*

The people who best know what kind of work their communities need are the people who live there.

This program should be administered locally so that these jobs serve real needs in communities. In particular, First Nations Communities must have control over what work happens on their Country.

4. *Public service jobs in the hands of the public:*

For too long, the needs of big business have been put ahead of the needs of our society. This is our chance to rebuild our public sector to provide great public services that meet everyone's needs and revitalise our cities, towns and communities.

The jobs created by a Climate Jobs Guarantee must be public sector jobs that serve real community needs.

5. *A living income for all, whether they work or not:*

A Climate Jobs Guarantee must not come at the expense of income support for everyone else. Everyone, whether they work or not, is entitled to the dignity of a living income and the support they need.

### **Main concerns with JobMaker Hiring Credit Scheme**

In the absence of a program for direct, public job creation as proposed above, the following issues with the JobMaker scheme must be addressed.

1. Businesses that have a history of wage theft, poor working conditions, comparatively low wages, and exploitative practices should not be eligible for the public subsidy. In addition, big businesses that have recently paid dividends to their shareholders should also be excluded. If they can pay their shareholders, they can pay their workers.
2. Tie JobMaker claims directly to job creation. Despite the subsidy, businesses may not be in a position to hire new workers. There needs to be protections in place that ensure that subsidy claims are linked directly to job creation.

3. JobMaker needs worker protections that stop businesses from firing older workers to hire younger workers in their place. Additionally, protections need to be created to stop businesses breaking up full-time jobs into part-time jobs, or into casual positions.