

# **Inquiry into the Nation Building and Jobs Plan**

SUBMISSION TO Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

by Climate Action Brisbane

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1. There must be significant funds allocated under the NBJP for projects to rescue the Murray-Darling River system. This is a national environmental and economic tragedy evolving in three States, and every opportunity must be taken to rescue and rehabilitate these river systems. Surely this issue must be at the top of the Committee's list for allocation of NBJP funds.
2. The proposed NBJP allocates no funds whatsoever to improve public transport services or infrastructure. While we recognise that there is an ongoing inquiry into national funding of public transport, we submit that the need to act is urgent and cannot wait for the outcome of that inquiry. Why have funds been allocated to roads for minor 'black spots' yet again, while public and rail freight transport have once again been excluded?
3. The proposed rebates for ceiling insulation and solar hot water appear to have been set arbitrarily to elicit support from citizens and the environmental lobby. We submit that the rebates be increased to a minimum of \$2000, and that they should be means tested to ensure that those citizens who are most in need of support be given priority at this time.
4. Means testing the rebates will also serve to moderate the demand somewhat. This is a relevant factor, as a massive increase in demand for product cannot be met by local manufacturers, and the excess that cannot be met by local product is certain to result in a large increase in importation of product and higher prices, surely not a desirable outcome for our BOP figures.
5. The NBJP must allocate significant funds for support for the renewable energy industries, and technical and scientific research and innovation for these industries. With the effects of climate change becoming more apparent every day, often with devastating results, the Parliament must take the lead on this issue, and act without further delay. We understand that financial institutions are reluctant to finance new renewable energy projects, and if this is so, the Government must step in and fund these vital industries and projects.
6. We call on the Committee to recommend to the Senate that the NBJP include funds for investment in solar, geothermal and wave energy infrastructure and a national carbon bio-sequestration program using soils, crops and native vegetation to assist farmers and regional communities

END OF SUBMISSION