



Newsletter

Number 21 December 2025

From the editor

Well, back to the **Climate Wars** again, after the Coalition released its No Net Zero and Energy Policies. There are still no details, other than the Page Research Centre's report to the Nationals.

We will be pushing back on this as hard as we can; their base assumptions and claims are wrong, there is no modelling of costs or benefits, and these plans will be bad for the country. Pushing back is harder when our elected MP, **Darren Chester**, simply refuses to meet with anyone to talk about climate and energy. Simply not good enough, Darren!

Here is some of our new postcard handouts; scan the QR code for more details.

Coalition's energy plan con job

- No map, no compass, no details — just a focus group fantasy.
- Billions poured into extending coal, while nuclear is decades away at an impossible cost, delivering unaffordable electricity.
- Experts agree: the **fastest** way to **lowest** cost **electricity** is via **renewable energy** + battery storage + gas peaking.
- Renewables now powering more homes than coal, and before their plan could deliver, it will be 95% renewables vs 5% coal.
- The choice is simple: clean, renewable energy or a dirty, dangerous path risking our children's future.

Authorised by John Gwyther, 311A Ryans Rd, Coongulla, 3860 for Wellington Climate Action Network



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NOT clean, NOT real, definitely NOT cheaper!

Coalition's emissions plan kills our planet

- Abandons our Paris legal obligation for net zero 2050
- Slashes our annual emissions reductions by 90%
- Aims for "middle of the pack" reductions- net zero 2100
- Claim global reactions won't affect our economy
- Ignores we "lead the pack" in emissions per capita by 2:1
- Ignores our exports taking our emissions share to > 4% whilst we make our national wealth from fossil fuels
- Takes us on a path to 4.8 deg C warming by 2100
- **Is this the future you want for your children?**

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Their plan was written by the fossil fuel industry!

So, 2026 looks like being a busy year around Climate Change. The WelCAN team wishes you a happy and safe festive season and looks forward to your support next year.

What's On?

Dec 20: Sale Producer's Market; visit our stand and help out if you can. Check out our new gazebo and its wonderful, hand-painted sign; thank you Penny. Volunteers welcome; [email Gail](#).



Jan 30: Coffee'n'Climate conversations 11am at Sale Library downstairs on the last Friday of each month. An informal chat amongst friends, all welcome.

Mar 14: Wellington Sustainability Festival: 10am-2pm at Nakunbalook and Seed Community Garden, Sale.

One lie at a time.....

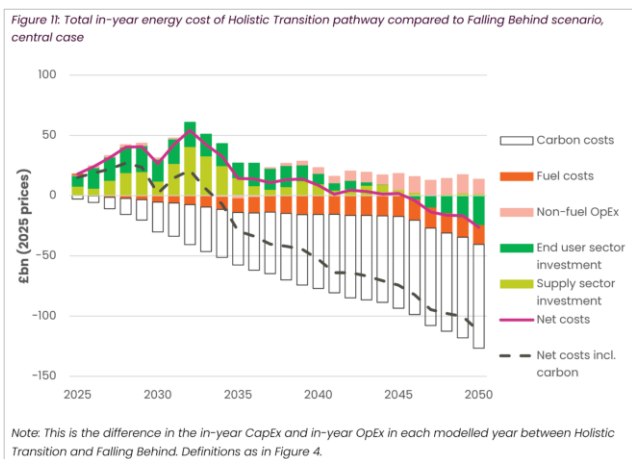
The Coalition claims Australia is "ahead of the pack" in emissions reduction but that is not true.



No Net Zero gotta be cheaper, right?

The Coalition's No Net Zero policy implies that it will be better for the country than pursuing Net Zero but will it? We don't yet know because they have not released any modelling. So, perhaps this [Carbon Brief report](#) on a study by NESO (who manages the UK's energy infrastructure, a bit like our AEMO) might shed some light here.

NESO says its "holistic transition" scenario would have the lowest cost over the next 25 years, saving **£36bn a year** – some 1% of GDP – compared to the alternative "falling behind" scenario that slows climate action. These savings are from lower fuel costs and reduced climate damages, relative to a scenario where the UK fails to meet its climate goals, known as "falling behind".



So, time for some modelling from the Coalition before we can believe their unsupported claims.

Little Rays of Sunshine (the "good")

South Korea to shut down coal ([ABC News](#)), joining the [Powering Past Coal Alliance](#), a group of about 60 nations committed to ending the "unabated" use of coal. That will have a big impact on Australia: "... Treasury's latest modelling predicts Australian coal and gas exports will fall by about 50 per cent in value over the next five years — a decline of more than \$60 billion by 2030 — regardless of Australia's own emissions targets".

Gas future not so bright #1 ([Renew Economy](#)):

Pakistan wanting to divert or sell 24 contracted LNG cargoes is a useful starting point for understanding what is happening in global gas markets. Solar is now

the cheapest source of electricity in that country. Power demand is flatter than planners expected. Many of Pakistan's LNG power plants run far fewer hours. It is a signpost for a structural shift in LNG demand that many LNG exporters (including Australia?) are not ready to face.

Gas future not so bright #2 ([IEEFA Gas Tracker](#))

reports a number of negative signs for our gas industry. Bad for the sector but good for climate.

- LNG exports fell in the first half of 2025 to their lowest level in four years.
- Asian LNG imports saw the largest half-year fall in the period since 2010, with imports down by 9%. China's imports were down 21% year on year.
- Gas generation has fallen to its lowest levels in years, with its share in the National Electricity Market dropping below 5% in early 2023, ([Climate Council](#)).
- Large-scale batteries are now providing crucial grid services like ramping and firming, effectively bypassing the need for gas peaking plants ([Renew Economy](#)).

Norwegian fish farm floating solar cuts diesel by 90%

([Interesting Engineering](#) article, [Inside China Business](#) video): despite its high latitude location averaging only 5 hours of winter daylight, this innovative solution delivers clean energy in a remote location.



Sundermann Water Turbine award: Heyfield farmer and inventor, Fred Sundermann, has won a US\$2,500 award for his low-head water turbine for the 2026 "top renewable water turbine technology" in Asia Pacific ([Latrobe Valley Express](#)). Well done, Fred!

EU targets 90% emissions reduction by 2040

([Reuters](#)). They agreed on a legally binding target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 90% from 1990



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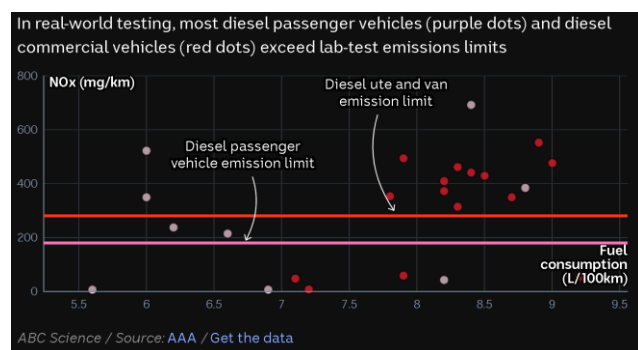
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levels by 2040, reported the EU Observer. The publication said that this agreement is “weaker” than the European Commission’s original proposal as it allows for up to five percentage points of a country’s cuts to be achieved using foreign carbon credits. Even in its weakened form, the goal is “more ambitious than most other major economies’ pledges”.

More Storm Warnings (the “bad”)

Talk about an inconvenient truth! The Coalition's no net zero policy and the more than 2 billion tonnes of additional CO2 emissions it generate will cause an extra 45,000 deaths and cost \$794 billion, according to the [Mortality Cost of Carbon](#) metric. The annual emissions of just 3.6 average Americans result in one additional death globally. Australia’s figures are probably a little higher but still; just reflect for a moment about your personal culpability in someone else’s death, arising from your personal emissions levels.

Is your diesel car killing us with Nitrous Oxide? ([ABC News](#)). Real-world testing shows many popular vehicles, banned in Europe but allowed in Australia, emit several times more NOx than lab-test rules allow. Whilst most petrol cars comply, most diesel cars do not.



Africa's forests have switched from a carbon sink into a source ([Scientific Reports](#)). Africa’s forests and woody savannas have historically acted as a carbon sink, removing atmospheric carbon and storing it as biomass. However, analysis reveals a critical transition from a carbon sink to a carbon source between 2010 and 2017, primarily driven by deforestation in tropical moist broadleaf forests.

In Between (the “interesting”)

We have more renewable energy than ever before. Why are we switching it off? ([ABC news](#)): An interesting introduction to curtailment in Australia. The bad news is we are wasting more than 6 TWh per year curtailing renewable energy during the daily solar peak. The great news is that our soaring battery storage (home and utility-scale) will surpass that inside 18 months so we can stop wasting that incredible amount of energy.

Don't plug in your plug-in hybrid? Here's how the extra emissions add up ([ABC News](#)). A study of service data from hundreds of thousands of European cars shows that, on average, PHEVs are mostly driven with empty batteries. Because of this, PHEVs **emitted almost five times more CO2** than the EU’s official estimates and were almost as polluting as petrol cars.

In Australia, a smaller, online survey found that PHEVs were driven in EV-mode for about 65% of [trips](#). BYD, which sells the most PHEVs in Australia, says that odometer data obtained through servicing showed PHEVs were driven in EV mode about 50% of the [time](#).

The Best Thing That Could Happen to the Energy Industry ([Ted Talk video](#)). History has been written by whoever controls the dominant fuel of the era; until now, says renewables entrepreneur Matt Tilleard. He explains why, as the clean energy transition ramps up, we’re moving from a world where energy comes from burning fuels to one where it will come from using technology. Learn why this could change everything about global power dynamics and why the future belongs not to those who [control resources](#), but to those who build and [share technology](#).

About Us

WelCAN is a group of Wellington Shire residents determined to accelerate the pace and direction of action on climate change at all Government levels. For more information, email info@welcan.org.au or call me on 0419 309 158. Note: Any opinions herein are mine and are not necessarily endorsed by WelCAN. John Gwyther, editor.