

**SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS DISILLUSIONED WITH GOVERNMENT ENERGY PLAN**

**Australia's peak body for sustainable business today expressed disappointment at the Government's energy plan, saying the country still lacks a viable long-term strategy to deliver energy securely, reliably and sustainably in line with internationally agreed emissions reduction targets to meet obligations under the Paris Agreement.**

Sustainable Business Australia, Chief Executive, Andrew Petersen said the government should have been looking at a holistic response to Australia's energy needs with a robust and ambitious investment plan to deliver sustainable energy.

"There's two key issues in energy policy. First there's the short term secure supply of electricity and then there's the medium to long-term issue of a decarbonised energy system for the future.

"Today's announcement may well ensure supply. It is not, however, a medium term to long-term sustainable solution for this our energy needs. It is definitely no signal to business and finance to invest, create jobs or bring innovation to our 20<sup>th</sup> century energy system.

"Coal fired electricity generation, in any form, is not a sustainable business. What Australia still needs is a long-term strategy for the secure supply of energy utilising renewables driven by solar, wind, thermal, wave and hydro generation and battery storage, as well as a comprehensive rethink of the future purpose of our network. The Finkel Report did this.

"In addressing the needs of current and future generations of Australians, we must play an active role in our international commitments to reduce emissions, become net zero carbon by mid-century and therefore limit global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees and honour our promise to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

"While today's announcement seems to secure the short-term supply of electricity, it is not sustainable and once again only adds to a decade of wasted opportunities in the energy policy debate and development in this country.

“Sustainable energy is the future; we have the potential to be a super-power and we can create dynamic new industries, new skills, and new markets. Regrettably, a blueprint for a decarbonised energy future is missing from today’s announcement,” Mr Petersen said.

**Media contact,** Andrew Woodward, +61411623980, [andrew.woodward@sbaustralia.net](mailto:andrew.woodward@sbaustralia.net)