

GREENPEACE

# REenergising Australian business

The corporate race to  
100% renewable energy  
2020 Snapshot Report



# Introduction

**2020 was the year that some of Australia's biggest brands made the switch to 100% renewable electricity. It's the year that the goalposts shifted, as corporate demand for renewables accelerated Australia's energy transition.**

**But what will the impact of these corporate commitments be? Which companies are leading and who is lagging behind? This snapshot report outlines some of the highlights of 2020.**

## **What are the corporate 100% renewable commitments to date?**

28 of Australia's largest electricity using companies and institutions<sup>1</sup> including Bunnings, Woolworths and Telstra committed to source 100% of their electricity from renewable energy, many of them through the RE100 initiative. These companies together use enough electricity to power 1.3 million households - almost all the homes in Brisbane and Perth combined.

1

Companies reporting under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007 (NGER Act)



## Business renewables - 100% do-able



28

28 of Australia's biggest electricity users including Bunnings, Woolworths and Telstra have committed to 100% renewable electricity

1.3m

These companies together use enough electricity to power 1.3 million households - almost all the homes in Brisbane and Perth combined.

5,041











jobs will be created as a result of these companies making the switch



Corporate commitments will drive an estimated 2.8GW of demand for renewable energy projects, largely over the next 5 years. 5,041 jobs are set to be created. 1.8GW of this demand has been generated by commitments made in 2020 alone, with major electricity users Woolworths and Telstra - each using 1% of total electricity consumed - in particular driving the shift.

The full list of major electricity users now committed to 100% renewable electricity can be found in Appendix A.

## Aussie companies committing to 100% renewable in 2020

 <b>Company</b>	 <b>MW of wind/solar</b>	 <b>Number of homes this could power</b>	 <b>Jobs to be created</b>
 <b>Woolworths</b>	<b>880MW</b>	<b>409,182</b>	<b>1,584</b>
 <b>TELSTRA</b> <b>Telstra</b>	<b>509MW</b>	<b>236,803</b>	<b>917</b>
 <b>Sun Metals zinc refinery</b>	<b>229MW</b>	<b>106,596</b>	<b>413</b>
 <b>Bunnings</b>	<b>110MW</b>	<b>51,134</b>	<b>198</b>
 <b>ALDI</b>	<b>104MW</b>	<b>48,443</b>	<b>188</b>
 <b>THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY</b> <b>University of Sydney</b>	<b>41MW</b>	<b>19,012</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Officeworks</b> <b>Officeworks</b>	<b>20MW</b>	<b>9,152</b>	<b>35</b>

## Why are companies committing to 100% renewable electricity?

A strong business case is behind the continued growth in corporate renewable commitments. Purchasing of renewable energy can save money and help companies manage price volatility. Companies who have committed to powering up with renewables report an “overwhelmingly positive” response from staff, and consumer demand for green purchasing only continues to build.

A recent poll demonstrated that 70.9% of people thought Australian companies should set a goal to go to 100% renewable energy as part of their responsibility to tackle climate change<sup>2</sup>. 68.3% of people said they would rather work for a company that was buying renewable energy, over two thirds of respondents said they were more likely to buy a product from a company that used 100% renewable energy.

Finally, in a year which opened with catastrophic bushfires devastating the country, businesses have seen that there is a pressing need to reduce carbon emissions to tackle climate change.

## The retail sector were 2020's renewable leaders

While 2019 saw the banking and finance industry, and major brewers, lead on corporate 100% renewable commitments - with the big four banks signing up to RE100, and beer companies Lion and Asahi committing to go renewable - in 2020 retail streaked to the head of the pack.

Renewable commitments from retailers ALDI, Woolworths, Bunnings and Officeworks alone will drive new demand of nearly 2GW (1893MW) of wind and solar - equivalent to the electricity consumption of 757,000 homes - creating 3,407 jobs along the way. The scale of the retail industry's renewable commitments will be largely realised through large-scale wind and solar power purchase agreements.

Supermarkets were the big winners in 2020. Woolworths, Australia's 6th largest electricity user, announced that it will make the switch to 100% renewable electricity by 2025, which will see it source the majority of its power needs through signing deals with new-build wind and solar farms.

ALDI has set the most ambitious timeline for its transition - announcing it will be powered by 100% renewables by 2021 - and signed two major deals with wind farms in NSW and Victoria.

Rival Coles has also recently signed two major power purchase agreements in NSW and Queensland. The QLD deal with state government-owned generator and retailer CleanCo will see it source 90% of its electricity for its Queensland operations from locally generated wind solar.

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2

UComms Poll commissioned by Greenpeace. September 2020.

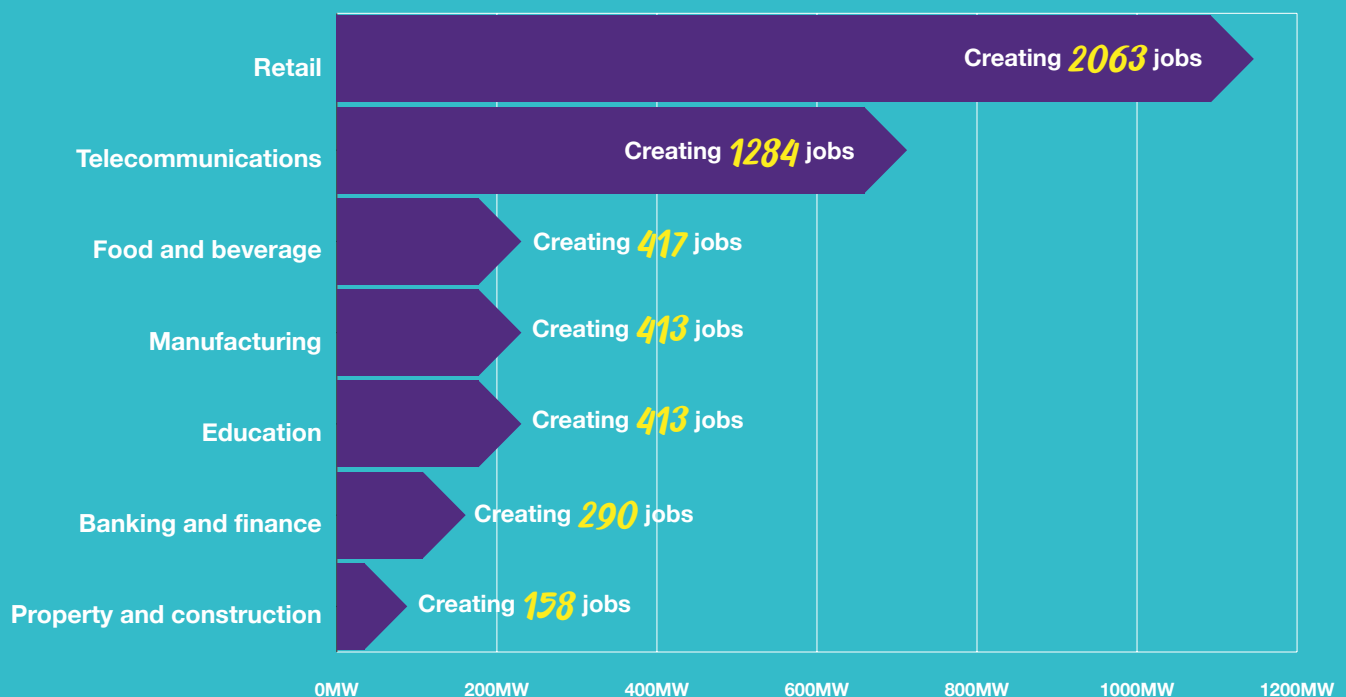
Coles is now the only major Australian supermarket chain that has not committed to a 100% renewable energy target.


Retailers committed to almost twice as much renewable electricity as the next-best performing sector, telecommunications - driven by Telstra's 100% renewable by 2025 commitment. With a number of 'green telco' brands emerging such as Felix, a 100% renewable powered digital telco brand from TPG which launched in October, telecommunications looks set to race ahead in 2021.

The potential for heavy industry like smelters and refineries to be powered entirely with renewable energy also made a big leap forward with major zinc refinery Sun Metals signing up to the RE100 initiative in November 2020.


The following table outlines the sectors driving new renewable demand through 100% renewable electricity commitments.

## Which industries are leading the renewables race?





**Companies can save up to 15-47% of energy costs by purchasing renewable energy via a corporate power purchase agreement**



## **Who's lagging behind in the renewables race?**

The acceleration we've seen in 2020 around corporate demand for renewable energy shows the increasing speed of Australia's energy transition.

Combined with the ambitious state renewable energy policies set by NSW and Victoria, the scale of corporate renewable commitments in 2020 sends a clear signal to policy makers and energy market institutions that Australia's switch to clean energy is well underway.

Who's missing? The Federal Government is still yet to make a commitment to a serious renewable energy or emissions reduction policy, which would provide greater certainty for businesses and investors and speed our transition to a fully renewable-powered grid.

However, despite this ongoing inertia at the federal level, corporate 100% renewable commitments look set to pick up even more pace in 2021.

# Appen





# Indices



# Appendix A: Major electricity using corporations committed to 100% renewable electricity

Company	Sector	MW of wind/ solar	Number of homes powered	Jobs to be created
Woolworths*	Retail	880	409,182	1,584
Telstra	Telcos, Technology and IT	509	236,803	917
Sunmetals*	Manufacturing and industry	229	106,596	413
Bunnings	Retail	110	51,134	198
Equinix*	Telcos, Technology and IT	107	49,960	193
Aldi	Retail	104	48,443	188
Lion	Food and beverage	70	32,573	126
Fujitsu*	Telcos, Technology and IT	58	26,898	104
University of Melbourne	Education	56	26,060	101
Dexus*	Property and construction	55	25,373	98
Monash University	Education	49	22,978	89
ANZ Bank*	Banking and finance	47	21,855	85
Nestle Australia*	Food and beverage	47	21,841	85
University of QLD	Education	47	21,785	84
Westpac*	Banking and finance	46	21,379	83
University of Sydney	Education	41	19,012	74
Amazon	Telcos, Technology and IT	39	18,035	70
National Australia Bank*	Banking and finance	38	17,475	68
Australian National University	Education	36	16,705	65
Mirvac*	Property and construction	33	15,497	60
David Jones	Retail	32	15,110	58
Mars*	Food and beverage	31	14,407	56
Commonwealth Bank*	Banking and finance	30	14,148	55
Asahi*	Food and beverage	28	13,059	51
McCain Foods*	Food and beverage	28	12,913	50
Carlton and United Breweries*	Food and beverage	28	12,848	50
Officeworks	Retail	20	9,152	35
Bingo Industries*	Water and waste management	2	1,111	4

\*Denotes membership of RE100



Greenpeace is an independent global campaigning organisation that acts to change attitudes and behaviour, to protect and conserve the environment and to promote peace.

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