

# Growing the Green Collar Economy



Skills and labour challenges in reducing our greenhouse emissions and national environmental footprint

# *Growing the green collar economy*

- Reviewed 52 industries, grouped in 11 sectors to 2050
- Used a Monash economic forecasting model
- For 2 emissions reduction scenarios:
  - **Deep Cuts:** 60% emissions reduction without tax reform
  - **Carbon Neutral:** 100% reduction in net emissions with tax reform for jobs & participation

# Key results

Strong jobs growth under all scenarios:

2.64m new jobs in low GHG sectors by 2025

560,000 new jobs in GHG intensive sectors, by 2025

So

Growth sustains with a low carbon shock BUT

Skills, innovation, investment are the keys

# Cut Pollution. Grow Jobs.

Bold steps *can*

- reduce emissions
- improve our environment
- lead to net jobs growth

*but* a transformation of Australian investment, innovation & skills is necessary

# Why smart interventions are necessary

- To take full advantage of 'first mover' opportunity
- To meet existing climate change policy:
  - Skill constraints: advisers, engineers, scientists, trades
  - Time lag for our education institutions to retool
- To ensure we have successful market adjustments:
  - Focused at sector, region, enterprise & worker levels
  - It's about protecting people rather than jobs
- Others investing heavily: Germany, California, Japan

## Deep Green Jobs (specific sectors & tasks)

- Renewables - invention, production, distribution, installation
- Waste, water & recycling
- Dry land farming, forestry & land management
- Architecture, building & construction
- Green services in auditing, accrediting, accounting
- Public transport

## Light Green Jobs (potentially everywhere)

- Adaptation & efficiency likely to be as vital as mitigation
- All workplaces & work practices have environmental impacts
- Key drivers around business costs & personal legacy

# Green skills: already constrained

- Conversion to LPG
- Solar energy supply & installation
- Green engineering & planning
- Green building management & performance
- Triple A skills: assessment, accreditation, accounting for households, govts & markets
- Education & training gap between TAFE & unis

# What needs to be done?

- National leadership & planning
  - Skills Australia to develop and implement a national program
  - Improve our measurement and data collection
  - Allocate places in Productivity Places Program to green skills
- University, TAFE & industry hubs/clusters to drive research, exchange, training & innovation
- Teaching collaborations across disciplines & trades
- Green teams in larger workplaces
- Mentoring for sustainability in SMEs
- Use ETS dividend to underpin skills & jobs investment

# ETS dividend & green jobs

- **50% to households:** an energy retrofit @ scale = advisers, plumbers, sparkies, designers, planners
- **30% to industry:** prioritise workers & skills in emerging & adapting sectors
- **20% to R&D:** industry, venture capital, university & TAFE innovation hubs for green skills & technology

# Y-Green

- Community Partnership
- TAFE trained
- Uni evaluated
- Addresses householder needs
- Real employment

# Grey is the New Green

- Retirees as business mentors
- Targeting SMEs
- Education partner
- Business Association