

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Mr Gary Higgins to the Minister for Renewables and Essential Services

**Renewable Energy**

1. What is the impact of the government's 50% renewable energy target by 2030 on the NT economy?
  2. What analysis has been undertaken on the impact of the renewable energy target on electricity prices and Jacana customers?
  3. Please provide a copy of the analysis?
  4. What is the allocation of half a million dollars for in the 2018/19 budget?
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**ANSWER**

1. The increasing penetration of renewables and associated technologies into the power systems of the Northern Territory is creating jobs and lowering energy costs for households and businesses. This trend is consistent the Australian and global context, where renewable energy is displacing traditional thermal generation due to lower capital and operating costs. The development of renewable energy generation, especially at the utility scale, will create both construction phase and ongoing jobs. Lowering the wholesale price of electricity will benefit both government and consumers.
2. Electricity prices are established by the Treasurer through a Network Price Determination. This Government is keeping its promise to maintain electricity prices at CPI and will not be burdening Territorians with a 30 per cent increase like the previous Government did.

Reducing the wholesale price of electricity will allow the Government to either reduce the electricity tariff for consumers and/or lower the Community Service Obligation (CSO) costs to government. The Government is procuring an external consultant to complete market and financial analysis to determine the optimal approach for achieving the renewable energy target at least cost..

3. The analysis will be released upon completion.
4. 2018-19 Budget allocates \$500 000 to establish a Renewable Energy Unit.