

PAUL'S PERSPECTIVE JULY, 2015

LABOR'S 50% RENEWABLE TARGET IS IMPOSSIBLE AND IRRESPONSIBLE

Mannkal is a non-party-political think tank: we support principles and ideas, not sides, and we are too often disappointed with both parties. Yet the recent ALP National Conference deserves utter condemnation for its target of 50% of electricity to be “renewable” by 2030. If attempted, the capital costs of new power stations and network reinforcement would be well over \$200 billion thus squeezing credit, raising electricity bills and plunging Australia into a deep recession.

Further, the 50% target is impossible as existing “renewable” technologies are simply not fit for purpose. Power networks are dynamic systems and the intermittence and unpredictability of wind, wave and solar power leaves them unable to provide steady power in the quantities and at the times required. We would have better luck trying to hold a Formula 1 race with Model T Fords – at least one or two might actually make it around the circuit! Nor are wind and solar truly “renewable” as they need constant support from diesel and gas plant and are thus more “grey” than “green”.

So why did Labor make this silly commitment? My sources tell me that it is an “aspirational” target, to be later abandoned, to placate the Labor Left in return for allowing Bill Shorten to pledge to “turn back the boats”. A party that deliberately proposes impossible policies in order to placate its own lunatic fringe is not fit for Government.



Cartoon source: Eric Lobbecke, The Australian, 28/7/2015

ON ADAM GOODES BEING BOOED

The Adam Goodes booing controversy has raged all week and will no doubt set the tone of this weekend's fixtures. It has not been a productive or positive episode for anyone involved. I can't help but look at the journalism profession, devastated by the creative destruction of the internet, and suspect that many journos have deliberately fuelled the debate. When competition reduces the viability of your existing products, you need to find new products – and the “journalism of outrage” seems to be filling the gap. Let's hope to see fewer such episodes consuming our energies.