

MEDIA RELEASE – 4 October 2020

Too much gas from Taylor, says neighbour.

Goulburn farmer and neighbour to Angus Taylor's Goulburn rural property, Ed Suttle, says the government's so-called gas led recovery is a farce. Angus is not only the local Federal member for Hume, but also the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction.

"It's now 13 years since Kevin Rudd described climate change as the greatest moral challenge of our time. Since then we have had six Prime Ministers but not one single coherent effective climate policy," said Ed Suttle, who is also the Vice President of a local community group, Community Energy for Goulburn (CE4G) building a community owned solar farm in Goulburn.

"The Federal Government's advisory body is the National COVID-19 Commission chaired by Neville Power, who happens to be the ex MD & CEO of Fortescue and the current Deputy Chair of Strike Energy, a gas exploration company. So little surprise the thrust of the advice is about new gas."

"If all the new gas projects listed by the federal government are fully progressed, they would result in an average of 332 million tonnes of CO2 being emitted each year - two thirds of our current total emissions," Ed Suttle said.

"It's a complete joke that's being played on the Australian public. Angus should use this opportunity to lead Australia to the position of a global renewable energy superpower, with regional and rural communities at the forefront of the Covid-19 recovery. He should not be initiating new gas projects, which more than often not only require fracking, but also degrade prime agricultural land," said Mr Suttle.

CE4G is building a 1.8 MW DC community owned and run solar farm on the outskirts of Goulburn, which includes a battery, making it the first community owned renewable project in the country that has dispatchable power.

Community energy projects are financed and owned by the community, who control, manage and operate the projects and share in the profits they generate. CE4G will start the community capital raising later this month with construction of the Goulburn solar farm commencing in 2021.

Mr Suttle says that a small committee of dedicated volunteers has been working on the project for over five years and now that a development company has been appointed, the farm will be up and running by mid 2021.

"It's a great testament to the local community to have taken things into their own hands instead of waiting around for the Federal Government to come up with real workable solutions to the climate crisis," he said.

"Between now and 2030 Australia's aging coal-fired power stations will creak towards obsolescence. This is exactly when all the affected workforce could be carefully and thoughtfully transitioned into new careers as Australia invests in renewables.

But instead Angus and our Federal Government are taking the diametrically opposite path replacing fossil fuel coal with fossil fuel gas," said Mr Suttle.

CE4G will be holding an information evening for interested investors on October 21.

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More information and high res image:

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