

Thursday 11 June 2020 4.00-5.00 pm

A Panel Discussion by webinar

The Low-Emissions Technology Roadmap: An Introductory Response by EPIA

Procedure

The webinar will be chaired by Robert Pritchard.

EPIA welcomes all registrants. EPIA does not provide for individual membership but warmly invites all corporations that support its goals to consider corporate membership.

We are delighted to have almost 200 registrants. Due to the large number, we have asked everyone to email their questions before the webinar or use the Q&A function within Zoom when the session commences.

Ideally, please email your questions to: Kirsten@kirsten.pain.com.au

We will observe the Chatham House rule and not attribute questions or answers to individual speakers.

After the webinar, we will prepare an edited transcript that we will circulate to all registrants as well as to the Roadmap Taskforce established by the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources.

We will also include all unanswered questions.

Panellists

We will welcome our three panelists to answer your questions:

First, Grant King, a Member of the Ministerial Advisory Group, ex-CEO of Origin Energy, who will tell us what to expect, and what not to expect, of the Roadmap process.

Second, Professor Chris Greig of Princeton University, who will tell us about the 'Rapid Switch' project involving universities from the US, India, China and Australia, what has been learned so far, what may be the outcome and what role technology may play.

Finally, Rodger Whitby, CEO of the St Baker Energy Innovation Fund, an Australian venture capital fund that holds investments approaching A\$250 million in low-emissions technologies. We will ask him how the drive to low-emissions technologies are affecting his Fund's activities.

Purpose of the Roadmap

The Government has authorised the preparation of what it has described as a 'bottom up' Technology Investment Roadmap. It has two purposes in mind:

- (1) to encourage private sector investment in low-emissions energy technologies and
- (2) to help Australia prepare for the Glasgow Climate Change Conference.

Scope of the Roadmap

'The Roadmap will form the cornerstone of Australia's Long Term Emissions Reduction Strategy and complement other strategies ... including the National Hydrogen Strategy'.

It is I believe accepted by most people that modern Australia should have a technology-based, low-emissions investment strategy, starting 'soon' and straddling the entire period up to the 2050 global end point of global net zero emissions.

EPIA supports the Government's Technology Strategy as articulated in its Discussion Paper:

'Technology will underpin the long term emissions required in Australia and globally.'

But at what cost? The Roadmap provides only a shallow survey of costs:

The Roadmap's Survey of Technology Costs by Sector (Roadmap Appendix B)

The Government has broken down low-emissions technologies into 11 categories:

- 1 Electricity supply** (including all forms of generation – for comparison, the survey relied on the existing Gen Cost 2018 report of CSIRO/AEMO)
- 2 Process heating**
- 3 Mining and industrial equipment**
- 4 Feedstocks**
- 5 Transport**
- 6 Built environment (residential)**
- 7 Built environment (commercial)**
- 8 Capture of fugitive emissions**
- 9 Energy from waste**
- 10 Agriculture and land use**
- 11 Negative emission technologies**

Submissions will, it is hoped, help the Government prepare what will be the first annual Clean Energy Statement for Australia.

The Government has invited submissions by not later than 21 June 2020. In EPIA's view, this deadline is unrealistic. The views of registrants would be appreciated.

EPIA's Position

EPIA is an independent and apolitical energy policy body, committed to a technology-neutral approach and committed to ensuring that Australia remains internationally competitive and that it maintains a secure investment climate.

In 2016, EPIA called for low-emissions energy innovation to be accelerated by a process of collaboration. EPIA emphasised at that time:

COLLABORATION WILL NOT SIMPLY HAPPEN BY ITSELF. It requires that the public and private sectors should work very differently. It will entail the establishment of a formal mechanism to orchestrate collaboration between the public and private sectors ... that is itself innovative in its design and modus operandi.

ONE ROADMAP OR A MULTIPLE? Genuine collaboration between the public and private sectors is likely to lead quickly to the recognition of the need for development of a number of sectoral roadmaps, or the enhancement of roadmaps that already exist, followed by the orchestration of collaborative efforts to accelerate low-emissions technologies across all main greenhouse gas-emitting sectors and sub-sectors.

A PORTFOLIO APPROACH. EPIA asked whether Australia could orchestrate a 'portfolio approach' - promoting technology diversity and neutrality from the bottom up, preserving optionality and including over time all emissions-generating industry sectors and sub-sectors?

About the Webinar

The webinar is designed to catalyse creative submissions to the Government, both before and after the 21 June deadline.

The webinar will be informal and interactive without formal presentations.

The webinar will be held under the Chatham House Rule, where the identity of participants will be kept confidential.

Please send your questions by email before the webinar or use the Q&A panel within Zoom during the webinar. An edited summary of the discussion will be circulated afterwards to assist participants lodge their own submissions with the Government by 21 June.

Discussion

The first question is to Grant King: what should we expect, and what should we not expect, of the Roadmap process? Then we will ask Chris Greig and Rodger Whitby for their thoughts before we open up the webinar to questions.

Robert Pritchard
Energy Policy Institute of Australia
11 June 2020