

Public Policy for a Low Carbon Economy: A Case Study Analysis of the Australian Clean Energy Future Package in the Australian

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As concerns about climate change escalate it is increasingly apparent that renewable energy generation must be utilised to a far greater extent if Australia is to stay within a 2°C pathway. The central aim of this thesis, therefore, is to analyse critically the role of the Clean Energy Future package that underpins the development of renewable energy policy in Australia and seek to understand how such policy might be enhanced in the future.

The research was conducted using a case study of the Australian Capital Region. Data were collected from semi-structured interviews with a diverse stakeholder group. In conjunction with findings from a literature review, the data were used to develop an analytical framework. The findings of the research show that while the renewable energy policy embedded in the Clean Energy Future package has made some meaningful progress in encouraging investment and deployment of lower carbon emissions energy generation, the package has been limited by a number of barriers.