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Australia's Post
Carbon Economy

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Coalition's promise to allow the gas sector access to Net Zero funding shows it doesn't understand Australia's net zero market opportunity

SYDNEY, 3 April 2025 – The Climate Capital Forum said the Coalition's announcement yesterday that it would allow the gas sector to access tax-payer Net Zero funding was a clear sign that it doesn't understand Australia's growing opportunity in the global emerging net zero market.

Queensland Senator Susan McDonald, the opposition spokesperson for resources, told a Sydney conference yesterday that the Coalition would allow gas producers access to the \$4 billion Net Zero Fund set up specifically to support decarbonising industry development, managed by Export Finance Australia.

"Today, Trump has created an incredible opportunity for Australia with his announced import tariffs that could open up whole new global markets for our emerging clean tech sector," said Blair Palese, founder of the [Climate Capital Forum](#), a network of investors and decarbonising companies. "The Coalition is showing that it doesn't understand this incredible economic opportunity and that it will not establish policies to ensure we can take full advantage of it."

"Countries around the world are paying a premium for truly net zero materials and products, something Australia can have in abundance if we support the wide range of innovators stepping up to fill that demand," she said. "Announcing that the Coalition would opt out of truly net zero market opportunities by including polluting sources like gas and coal in federal funding would greatly reduce our global competitiveness when we should be stepping up to this new global demand."

"The road to net zero does run through the Australian resources sector. But more than ever, we need to seize this opportunity and focus on kick-starting renewable energy, batteries and the critical minerals needed to drive our transition from a dig-and-ship economy to a processing and value adding economy that will set us up at home and through green exports for decades to come," Palese said.

"Providing access to this funding to a gas sector that pays next to no tax to the Australian community, for a resource that we own, and that they have mined for decades is an outrageous abuse of the original intent for this funding," Palese said.

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