

**HD** New report reveals Origin, EnergyAustralia and AGL's attack on the Renewable **Energy** Target

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Headline: New report reveals Origin, EnergyAustralia and AGL's attack on the Renewable **Energy** Target

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Greenpeace's report comes on the day that legislation to repeal carbon pricing laws is reintroduced into Federal Parliament and on the back of new polling showing that fewer than 1 in 10 Australians support moves to **wind** back the Renewable **Energy** Target.

Footage and stills of the Greenpeace's campaign launch outside of Origin **Energy** Headquarters in Sydney today are available on request (see below).

KEY FINDINGS OF THE REPORT, 'The Dirty Three – Origin **Energy**, EnergyAustralia and AGL's Attack on Australia's Renewable **Energy** Target'. At a critical time in the development of clean **energy** in Australia, the big three **energy** retailers which account for 77 per cent of small electricity customers, have become 'The Dirty Three' – expanding investments in **coal** and gas, undermining the Renewable **Energy** Target and threatening the future of renewable **energy** in Australia.

The Dirty Three have invested relatively little in renewable **energy** and continue to invest heavily in polluting **coal** and gas generation:

Analysis of **company** data by Greenpeace's Investigation Unit shows renewable **energy** made up only 0.5 per cent of Origin **Energy**'s and 1.9 per cent of EnergyAustralia's electricity generation during 2012-13.

AGL does better, with around 15 per cent of electricity generation, but in the past five years has increased its fossil fuel electricity generation capacity by around 50 per cent.

Analysis of major investments in generating infrastructure over the last five years shows EnergyAustralia and Origin have dramatically expanded their fossil fuel electricity generation by close to 75 and 87 per cent respectively and AGL has increased its by just over 50 per cent.

The Dirty Three are undermining the Renewable **Energy** Target to protect their profits:

The Dirty Three have helped to spread misinformation about the Renewable **Energy** Target and perpetuate mistruths which are distorting the public debate, for example:

the Renewable **Energy** Target is leading to higher electricity prices

meeting the 2020 Renewable **Energy** Target is not possible

**wind** and **solar energy** is unreliable. The report rebuts these claims.

**Wind** and **solar** projects have reportedly been frustrated by Origin and EnergyAustralia refusing to issue the power **purchase** agreements which renewable **energy** generators need to ensure they have customers for their power.

GREENPEACE LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN. The report kicks off the launch of a high profile Greenpeace campaign focused on "The Dirty Three." The campaign invites customers of Origin, EnergyAustralia and

AGL to petition their power **company** to support the Renewable **Energy** Target. It includes a TV advertisement and grassroots campaigning in the electorates of Prime Minister Tony Abbott, Treasurer Joe Hockey and Communications Minister Malcolm Turnbull's electorates. Greenpeace Head of Program Ben Pearson said, "While Australians are hungry for clean **solar** and **wind** power, the top three **energy** retailers are working to hold back the nation's transition to a renewable **energy** future by undermining one of our most successful bipartisan policies ever.

"Analysis shows Origin, EnergyAustralia and AGL are expanding investment in **coal** and gas, exposing themselves to competition from renewable projects. These companies, some of the largest Australian polluters, are publicly attacking the target and actively frustrating **wind** and **solar** projects.

"The dramatic growth of renewables threatens the profits of the big **energy** companies and they're responding by using their economic and political muscle to weaken the Renewable **Energy** Target. "After years spent touting their green credentials, Australians are rightly shocked to find that these big **energy** companies are working to erode investment in renewable **energy** which will ultimately increase consumer power bills. Many customers have already contacted Greenpeace for advice on options for switching to alternate **energy** companies.

"Australia already lags behind other large economies like Germany and **China** in developing renewables capacity. Scrapping or reducing the Renewable **Energy** Target would be foolish. It would risk **billions** in renewable investments, increase power bills, forgo Australian jobs and increase carbon emissions," Mr Pearson said.

Media Gallery – Footage and Stills of Launch: [www.greenpeacemedia.org/user](http://www.greenpeacemedia.org/user): photos password: green

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**CO** boral : Origin Energy Ltd | sretpl : EnergyAustralia Pty Ltd | gpeaci : Greenpeace International | chlp : CLP Holdings Ltd

**IN** i163 : Electric Power Generation - Alternative Energy | irenewee : Renewable Energy Equipment | irenewf : Renewable Energy Facility Construction | i16 : Electricity/Gas Utilities | i16101 : Electric Power Generation | i32 : Machinery | i502 : Heavy Construction | i5020044 : Power Station Construction | iconst : Construction | icre : Real Estate/Construction | iutil : Electric Utilities | iindstrls : Industrial Goods | iutil : Utilities | i1 : Energy | i13 : Crude Oil/Natural Gas

**NS** gppl : Domestic Politics | gcat : Political/General News | gpir : Politics/International Relations

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