Dear Clean Energy Capacity Study Team,

I am writing to provide my views on the workforce and skills required for Australia's transition to a clean energy economy, in response to the invitation for submissions from Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA). I commend JSA for undertaking this comprehensive capacity study and appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the discussion.

1. Jobs and Industries of Australia's Clean Energy Workforce: Australia's clean energy workforce should encompass a range of industries, including renewable energy generation (solar, wind, hydro, and bioenergy), energy storage (batteries, pumped hydro), transmission and distribution infrastructure, and energy efficiency. Additionally, the workforce should include jobs related to emerging technologies such as hydrogen, carbon capture and storage, and electric vehicles.

2. Scenarios to Reach Net Zero by 2050: Australia should consider a mix of different pathways to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. These may include scenarios that prioritize rapid renewable energy deployment, focus on energy efficiency, or incorporate significant carbon capture and storage. Each scenario should consider the potential economic, environmental, and social impacts on various stakeholders, and involve active collaboration between federal, state, and local governments, along with businesses and communities.

3. Workforce Needs and Skills: The clean energy transition will require a significant number of skilled workers across various sectors. To address this, Australia should invest in education and training programs that focus on renewable energy technologies, grid management, energy efficiency, and emerging technologies. Additionally, efforts should be made to attract skilled workers from overseas to fill critical roles.

4. Inclusive Workforce Opportunities: The clean energy sector should strive to provide inclusive workforce opportunities for First Nations Australians, women, people with disabilities, and individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. This can be achieved by implementing targeted recruitment and training programs, as well as promoting diversity and inclusion policies within the sector.

5. Transitioning Workers from High-emitting Sectors: Workers in high-emitting industries should be supported in their transition to new roles within the clean energy sector. This can be facilitated through reskilling and upskilling programs, career guidance services, and financial incentives for businesses that employ transitioning workers.

6. Education, Training, and Migration Pathways: Australia should invest in a comprehensive clean energy education and training system that incorporates vocational training, higher education, and professional development. Collaboration between educational institutions, industry, and government will be crucial in developing relevant curricula and ensuring an adequate supply of skilled workers. Furthermore, migration policies should be reviewed to attract and retain skilled professionals from overseas.

In conclusion, Australia's transition to a clean energy economy will necessitate a skilled and diverse workforce. By addressing the above points and implementing effective strategies, we can pave the way for a successful and inclusive clean energy future.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Kind Regards,

AGA / CTC / DGT / FindStaff / HTN / Interact Australia / IntoJobs / IntoWork Australia / iTFE / Kestrel / Mas National / MRAEL / Stockdale / Work & Training

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and cultures and we extend our respect to the Elders past, present and emerging.