

26 February 2025

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By email to: EIJP@pmc.gov.au

RE: Energy Industry Jobs Plan – Torrens Island Power Station

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission regarding the Net Zero Economy Authority (the Authority) consultation paper on the *Energy Industry Jobs Plan* (EIJP) proposed for the Torrens Island Power Station (the Station). As you may be aware, the South Australian Business Chamber is a not-for-profit, membership-based organisation representing the interests of the state's businesses.

The Chamber has reviewed the consultation paper and met with representatives from the Authority on 4 February 2025. We have also contacted several employers in the energy sector and provide the following response to the paper.

Do you think that workers at Torrens Island B and other impacted businesses will be able to find and transition into new employment in the Adelaide region quickly once the station closes?

Through our quarterly Survey of Business Expectations we know that staff and skills shortages is the fourth highest issue reported to be affecting South Australian Businesses (Attachment 1). This would indicate that there will be many employers seeking a variety of staff to fill vacancies if their skill sets are considered transferable. The need for skilled staff is expected to increase in the lead up to June 2026 closure of the Station, particularly in the construction, energy and defence industries and across trades in general.

Would the establishment of an EIJP support a smoother transition for impacted workers and their local community?

The third highest issue reported by survey respondents is the impact of increased complexity involved, and time spent in navigating Government policies, legislation and compliance.

Whilst we would welcome support through an EIJP for employers and employees affected by the closure of the Station, the balance between the benefits provided versus the potential increase in regulation and compliance requirements on employers should be considered, especially if it would unnecessarily duplicate or hinder existing efforts to achieve the same outcomes for employees.

Are there any gaps in the current supports available to these workers?

The Chamber was pleased to hear that the Authority has been actively engaging with the SA Skills Commissioner. Closure of the Station highlights the continued importance of work being undertaken to acknowledge recognition of prior learning, occupational recognition of service, and mapping transferable skills and qualifications (including micro-credentials) to potential new roles for redeployed staff. This will be particularly important to maximise the benefit for both employees and employers seeking to address critical skills gaps.

Do you think the current geographic area will accurately support local labour market analysis for Torrens workers?

If the intent of the geographic area is to capture where “dependent employers” might operate then, given this is a metropolitan based power station, the proposed area may miss capturing key regional or remote businesses in the supply chain impacted by the closure.


Whilst it is understood the intent of the EIJP and proposed geographic area is to redeploy employee employees in their current region, this may also reduce the potential for employers outside of those areas to attract this skilled workforce to address critical skills shortages, especially in rural and regional locations.

As mentioned during our discussions with the Authority, the consultation paper states that if it is determined that an EIJP is not needed “the process ends here”. We query whether that means all proposed support and engagement by the Authority would cease, or if there may still be some assistance provided. For example, what level of engagement with and support for businesses will continue to connect workers with other employment opportunities in the region. We would be keen to see incentives retained for employers who take on redeployed staff.

We look forward to continued engagement with the Authority on this topic and the broader work of the Authority relating to the closure of the Torrens Island Power Station. The Chamber would be happy to disseminate any pertinent information to our broad network of over 30,000.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide feedback on this important matter. Should you require further information, please contact Cathi Buttfield, Senior Policy Adviser, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,



Kendall Crowe

General Manager Policy, Advocacy and International Services
South Australian Business Chamber

SA Business Chamber - Survey of Business Expectations (SOBE) Data

Issues Affecting Businesses – SOBE September 2024

