



The National Energy Essay Competition

Posted by [Big Gav](#) on July 17, 2008 - 9:00am in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Policy/Politics](#)

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This [competition](#) was announced a little while ago, but still has plenty of time until it closes.

Any younger readers (under the age of 31 that is, which is younger than I am) might like to try their hand at writing an essay to describe their vision for our energy future.

Young Australians are invited to help secure the nation's energy future by presenting their ideas in an entry paper for The Warren Centre's National Energy Essay Competition.

Entrants are competing for a total prize pool of \$50,000, including two major prizes of \$20,000 each (the Sumitomo Australia Prize and the Babcock & Brown Power/Wind Partners Prize).

The NEEC is about Australia's energy future. Specifically, it is about the next phase of primary power generation and the future beyond that. The NEEC is also about the younger generation and their contribution to the future of Australia's energy development.

The concept of an essay provides the opportunity for the contestants to create an analytic, speculative, or interpretative composition built on an understanding of the current power generation and delivery system and the influence on it of political, societal, demographic and technological changes, living patterns, technologies, transport and travel needs, existing and emerging industrial processes and other yet to emerge impacts, in a way which is understandable to the layman.

The outcome of the competition is aimed, with the media's support, to provide a more rigorous and disciplined level of information in the public arena as a catalyst for reasoned debate on Australia's energy future.

The competition is open to Australian citizens and permanent residents under 31 years of age at 30 June 2008.

Entries close on 22 August 2008.

If I was entering I'd be concentrating on ramping up clean energy production (solar - CSP, PV and thin film - wind, geothermal, tidal/wave, biogas and free-flow hydro) while steadily decommissioning our coal fired power plants (ordered by the amount of pollution they emit), creating a "smart grid" with better interconnections between the regions, electrifying the national

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rail network and expanding the public transport system, encouraging a shift to hybrid then electric vehicles and trying to lay the foundations for the beginning of a "cradle to cradle" oriented manufacturing and recycling system.



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