**Submission for solar panels in schools**

My name is Michelle Rawson and I am writing in my capacity as head of the recently formed Bennelong Climate Action group, which has over 160 members.

In the May Federal Budget, we would like the Government to fund solar panels and batteries in every public school and pre-school, as well as child care centres.

Schools and early childhood centres are the perfect place for solar and batteries to operate, because they not only have large, unused rooftops, but are closed for periods of peak demand. Solar power stored in school batteries could be drawn down to stabilise the grid during peak periods, reducing the need for emission producing gas-fired power stations.

Research by the Beyond zero emissions millions jobs plan shows that placing solar panels on large schools could save as much as $114,000 per year, or as much as $12,700 per small school. This money could then be invested into providing schools with much needed resources rather than wasted it on electricity bills.

Additionally, the same report estimates that by solaring our schools, we would be saving 1.35 million tonnes of greenhouse emissions each year.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Michelle Rawson

Bennelong Climate Action group