



# 69<sup>TH</sup> AMEU CONVENTION

**1 - 4 October 2023**

CSIR International Convention Centre

**Confronting South Africa's Electricity Crisis in the context of a 'Balanced Just Energy Transition' (BJET) and the need for a reliable and resilient national electricity grid**

**So what it is a Just Energy Transition?**

**Presented by Prof Wikus van Niekerk,**

**Dean of Engineering**

**Stellenbosch University**

# Just Energy Transition (JET) through Innovation

## Main points to consider in the Just Energy Transition:

### Technical Components:

Where will the energy come from, **Renewable** vs **Nuclear** Energy?

How will we distribute the energy, the **New (Smart) Grid**?

### Financial Arrangements:

Who will **pay** for the additional cost of the transition?

Who will **win** and who will **lose**?

### Social Dimension:

Who will be **directly affected**, coal mine and power stations workers, local communities, incl. extended families, etc.?

Who will be **indirectly affected**, present and future generations?

# Just Energy Transition (JET) through Innovation

## Where will the Energy come from?

SA relies heavily on coal, 85% to generate electricity, less on nuclear (5%) and some renewables – Note the 85% generated by coal needs to be replaced!

## How will we distribute the Energy?

SA has a National Grid with **long transmission lines**

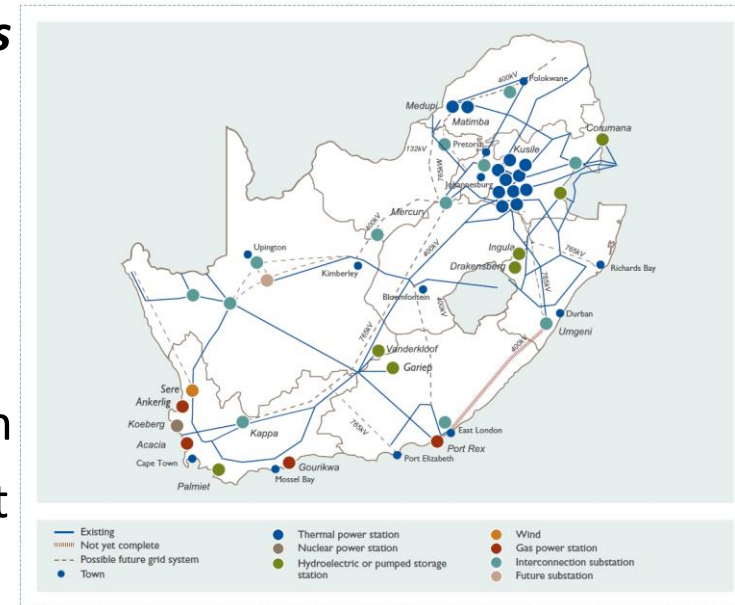
**Grid Stability** – Frequency and Voltage control

**Loss of Inertia**

Required **storage** to manage variable renewables

Gas power stations for **dispatchable power**

SA has **limited interconnections** to neighbours with limited additional generation available in support





# But what does “Just” imply in the Energy Transition

Justness: “the quality of being fair or morally correct”

Where do we draw the boundaries?

- **Around the coal mine and the adjacent coal-fired power station?**  
*Workers will lose employment and hence their means to earn a livelihood*
- **Around the local community**  
*Families and others dependent on the economy will be at risk, BUT  
They will also have a healthier environment to live in, less harmful emissions*
- **Around the entire country of South Africa?**  
*Population could benefit from less expensive and more reliable supply of electricity  
Mitigation of climate change (reduced CO2 emissions) reducing impact of Climate Change*



69TH AMEU CONVENTION 2023  
**Confronting South Africa's Electricity Crisis in the context of a 'Balanced Just Energy  
Transition' (BJET) and the need for a reliable and resilient national electricity grid**

**Thank you!**

