

Dr Jess Jennings

Executive Officer, CENREC

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Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: CENREC Submission to Climate Change Authority**

the potential for establishing large-scale and community supported renewable energy generation in the Central West of NSW is a critical opportunity currently being pursued by the Central NSW Renewable Energy Committee.

This group is in the process of forming a new community co-operative structure that will be known as the **Central NSW Renewable Energy Co-operative** or 'CENREC' for short.

To date, over 140 local citizens have expressed their interest in and future support for CENREC to ensure that local renewable energy generation initiatives of various kinds are locally owned and managed. To this end the proposed objectives of CENREC will be to:

- a) Own or lease renewable energy infrastructure either wholly or in part.
- b) Promote the generation and adoption of electricity from renewable sources.
- c) Secure our local energy supply for the future.
- d) Use profits to generate dividends for members and reinvest in local projects.

The recent Garnaut Review stated that renewable energy technologies have advanced considerably in recent years and are rapidly becoming cheaper.

At the same time, scientists are reporting that climate change is occurring faster than expected.

The Climate Change Authority has an opportunity to draw on both these insights when making recommendations to Government, through the Renewable Energy Target Review.

On behalf of CENREC and it's 140+ local supporters, I call on the Authority recommend a strengthening of the RET so that it continues to expand beyond 2020, providing a clear signal to markets in order to drive a steady transition to clean energy.

In addition, I call upon the Authority to recommend a new 'Community Power Builder' (LGC multiplier of 1.5 with appropriate controls) be applied to community-owned renewable energy projects - this simple mechanism would dramatically boost the growth of the community energy sector and provide more Australians with the opportunity to engage with clean energy.

Now is not the time to weaken the RET or plan for Australia to peak at 20% in 2020. Wealthy nations such as USA, Germany and Japan and also developing countries such as China, India and South Africa are embarking on bold, long-term investments in clean energy. To remain attractive as a market for clean energy, we need a stronger and longer term Renewable Energy Target.

Our CENREC experiences to date indicate there is a strong local and regional support for breaking away from the traditional fossil fuel based system to a cleaner, more efficient and totally renewable energy generation future, and we encourage the CCA to provide the leadership required to strengthen and promote Australia's position regarding global renewable energy technologies, markets and production.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jess Jennings', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jess Jennings