



'Building a
Renewable Energy
Community'

To the Climate Change Authority,

I write on behalf of members of DRREA (the Dandenong Ranges Renewable Energy Association Inc). DRREA was formed in 2007 and grew rapidly in response to the very high level of community interest in and support for renewable energy.

Since then we have organized the installation of a lot of solar PV and solar hot water on a large number of houses and a variety of community buildings. We have also held 12 energy forums most attended by between 50 and 100 people.

All of these plus our information stalls outside supermarkets and at markets and local festivals indicate a strong and consistent level of community support for renewable energy.

Have done extensive community surveys in the last 2 years we know that people support renewable energy because they see they see it as a major part of the solution to climate change. From this we can say that people support an ambitious renewable energy target.

There are several reasons listed below why we believe the RET should be ambitious.

1. Australia has an abundant supply of sun, wind and land. Mature renewable technologies like wind and concentrated solar thermal are therefore a perfect match for us.
2. The faster we roll out renewable energy the sooner its price will decline.
3. An ambitious RET will encourage more community renewable energy projects like the community wind farm at Daylesford in central Victoria.
4. A strong and vibrant renewable energy sector could help stimulate our ailing manufacturing sector.
5. Climate science is very clear that we must embrace zero emissions power generation technologies a.s.a.p. to avoid dangerous climate change.
6. Other countries less well suited to renewable energy either spend more on renewable energy than us or have higher renewable energy targets. We will not be an attractive market for clean energy without an improved, more ambitious RET.

For the above reason we strongly support a revised RET of at least 50% by 2020.

P Cook, President, DRREA