

Attention – Federal Senate Committee Inquiry on the Grid Reliability Fund Bill 2020

Dated 22 September 2020

Dear Senators

Please find my submission attached to your Inquiry into the **Grid Reliability Fund Bill 2020**.

My submission is a little over 1 page. The key points are -

1. Funding from the Clean Energy Agencies like the public funded **Clean Energy Finance Corporation** must only be used for Clean Energy projects such as expanding the power grid's infrastructure so 'ready-to-market' projects can feed into the grid.
2. Gas is a fossil fuels, not are clean energy
3. Canadian review of 1,500 scientific studies demonstrates that the fracking process contaminates air and water with harmful chemicals and causes diseases..
4. Fossil fuel industries and projects emit greenhouse gases and raise the level of emissions in our atmosphere
5. Gas projects will not reduce emissions preventing Australia to achieve its targets for reduced gas emissions set at the Paris Agreement.
6. Business, banks and buyers are quickly retreating from fossil fuels rendering assets worthless and public expenditure wasteful with no ROI.
7. Sustainable and renewable energy sources create sustainable jobs, communities and habitats.
8. Clean Energy Agencies must remain independent of government interference and direction.
9. Solutions to create jobs, industries and businesses in a post-pandemic economy and society already exist in sustainable and renewable technologies, 'ready-to-go' projects with more to come on stream with current and new research.
10. Let our scientists lead as they are doing during COVID 19.

Please do not allow this Bill or any variations of this Bill to become law.

Yours sincerely and earnestly

Submission to the Senate Committee Inquiry 22 Sept 2020

Subject - Funding from the Clean Energy Finance Corporation for Gas projects

The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) must not have its funding stripped back and diverted away from renewables. Equally, the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) must not be pushed into funding fracking and gas pipelines.

Gas is not clean energy. Gas is a greenhouse gas polluter. More fossil fuel projects will not reduce our greenhouse emissions but add to them.

Fracking is a polluting process in itself damaging our water sources. In 2019 a Canadian review of more than 1,500 scientific studies concluded that fracking contaminates air and water with chemicals that can cause serious health problems, including cancer, asthma and birth defects.

In the Federal Government's mad rush to extract and sell every drop of gas and oil as quickly as possible to dwindling markets, we're trading precious water for fossil fuels. This does not make 'fracking' sense. Please don't let this happen.

The CEFC is a publicly-owned Green Bank driving billions of dollars of investment in Australia's clean energy future.

Alongside ARENA, the CEFC has funded cutting-edge solar research, the uptake of electric vehicle networks, world-leading battery projects, and clean, affordable power for remote communities.

Public money must be spent on supporting the many, many 'ready-to-go' sustainable energy and renewable projects. Public money must be spent on expanding the electricity grid's infrastructure to allow the numerous sustainable energy projects that are ready to go, onto the grid. These projects are being held back because of the inadequacy of the current grid network to accept them and reduce the price of power for the city, regional and rural users across Australia.

Please don't let the federal Government's Bill to go into law.

This Bill will sacrifice millions of renewable jobs to prop up last century's dying fossil fuel technologies and industries. Business, industry and the financial sector are moving away from this industry at a fast rate. And for good reason. Fossil fuels are unsustainable making our lives and livelihoods unsustainable.

Buyers of energy are also quickly moving away from fossil fuels.

So as business, banks and buyers retreat from fossil fuels its assets will become useless, expensively so for taxpayers if public money is pushed into these industries.

The Bill must not be made into law as it would expand CEFC's mandate to allow investment in more fracking and gas pipelines, making our chances of meeting our targets under the Paris Agreement impossible.

The changes to the CEFC also reduce its independence by granting the Energy Minister Angus Taylor new powers to order investment in polluting gas *even if the projects lose money*.

This is a backward step for Australian clean energy, a blank cheque for gas self-interests and calamitous for Australians currently in the fossil fuel industry stalling the inevitable demise of their jobs and making it more difficult for them to transition to new jobs .

Please don't let the Federal Government's Bill go into law.

As a voter I get a chance to elect the Federal Government only every 3 years. But opportunities like this gives the Senate a chance to hear my voice in between elections and act on my behalf. The Senate can lead us in telling the current Government to re-think its strategy to a post-pandemic recovery and set up an economy for the here, the now and the future giving Australians sustainable jobs , sustainable livelihoods, and sustainable communities right across rural, regional and urban Australia.

Let our scientists lead again just as they are doing to get us out of this pandemic.