



## Simon Corbell MLA

ATTORNEY-GENERAL  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT  
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES  
MINISTER FOR CAPITAL METRO

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MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

Senator Sean Edwards  
Chair  
Economics Legislation Committee  
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CANBERRA ACT 2600  
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Dear Senator Edwards

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (Repeal) Bill 2014, as referred to the Senate Economics Legislation Committee for inquiry.

The ACT considers that agencies such as ARENA are essential to developing Australia's clean energy economy and addressing the challenge of climate change.

Addressing climate change requires a global commitment to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, and is a shared responsibility that all countries and communities must embrace. The ACT is committed to taking appropriate action, and subsequently has the most ambitious greenhouse gas reduction targets of any jurisdiction in Australia. The *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010* formalised the ACT targets of a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2020 and zero net emission by 2060.

These targets are born of necessity and have the strong support of the ACT community. The overwhelming weight of scientific evidence indicates that our current patterns of production and consumption, particularly our burning of non-renewable fossil fuels, are not sustainable. Fortunately, continuing rapid developments, including in renewable energy, provide us with a pathway to transform our city. We can continue to grow and prosper while reducing our emissions and demonstrating leadership to other communities in Australia and in advanced and developing economies around the world.

The backbone of the ACT's plan to achieve emissions reductions is the legislated 90 per cent renewable energy target. This can be achieved within the ACT at a modest cost with current technologies. There are, however, opportunities to make significant improvements and further work is required to fully integrate renewables – particularly if the rest of Australia follows the ACT's lead. This will include improvements across the entire renewable energy chain from education and research to pilot-scale deployment and full-scale commercialisation.

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### ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Without the continued support that agencies such as ARENA provide, Australia's research and development capacity will be reduced, the renewables jobs that have been established will be lost and Australia will be relegated to taking renewable energy products that are developed and manufactured overseas.

It is imperative that Australia does not fall behind in achieving the significant GHG emissions cuts required, and that we ensure our international obligations are met for the long-term interests of the Australian community.

Yours sincerely

Simon Corbell MLA  
Minister for the Environment

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