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Re:ARENA Senate Inquiry

When viewed at a whole of system level the energy sector is characterised by a high level of regulation and a low to medium level of competition depending on the jurisdiction.

The massive growth in popularity of residential solar power systems has been driven to a large degree by providing a genuine alternative choice for consumers as to where and how they source their electricity. Even in markets where legislation permits competition between retailers, the variety of offers from retailers is very low.

Renewable power system are now cost competitive with other forms of generation but are inhibited from competing in the market place due to structural barriers in the existing regulations that have been developed around fossil fuel generation capabilities and risks.

ARENA has been charged with facilitating commercial deals to provide a greater level and competition and diversity of energy technology options to the marketplace, with the goal of reducing the cost of energy for customers to increase local and global competitiveness.

Great Southern Solar supports the approach of allowing technologies to compete fairly in the marketplace to allow innovative solutions with a lower cost profile to be adopted more broadly bringing competitive benefits to a range of enterprises across the economy.

This type of reform can only be achieved by a body similar to ARENA and is the strategic work that the federal government should carry out for the benefit of the Australian economy.

The only reason to shutdown and dismantle ARENA is to stifle competition to the existing vested interest in the coal, gas and energy utility industries.

Yours sincerely

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