



50 Camberwell Road Hawthorn East VIC 3123

19 April 2024

Chair
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
Commonwealth Parliament
Lodged online at: fpa.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Chair,

CEIG response to the *Net Zero Economy Authority Bill 2024*

The Clean Energy Investor Group (CEIG) welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the Net Zero Economy Authority Bill 2024 (the NZEA Bill).

CEIG represents domestic and global renewable energy developers and investors, with more than 16GW of installed renewable energy capacity across more than 76 power stations and a combined portfolio value of around \$38 billion. CEIG members' project pipeline is estimated to be more than 46GW across Australia. CEIG strongly advocates for an efficient transition to clean energy with a focus on the stakeholders who can provide the cost-effective capital required for this transition.

Key Points

- CEIG appreciates the NZEA Bill's comprehensive strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while fostering economic growth, aiming to position Australia as a global leader in renewable energy.
- The inclusion of the Energy Industry Jobs Plan is commendable, as it ensures a just transition for workers affected by the shift from fossil fuel-based industries, promoting social equity and labour market resilience.
- CEIG supports the clear governance structures outlined for the CEO and other officials within the Authority, which will underpin effective management and strategic decision-making.
- The NZEA Bill's provision for dynamic adjustment of the Authority's functions and the Energy Industry Jobs Plan is crucial for adapting to the evolving landscape of the energy sector.



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GENERAL REMARKS

The Clean Energy Investor Group (CEIG) welcomes the initiative of the Commonwealth Government in proposing the NZEA Bill, which aims to establish the Net Zero Economy Authority (the Authority), a pivotal entity for supporting Australia's transition to a net-zero emissions economy. This submission emphasises the NZEA Bill's potential to influence renewable energy investment positively while emphasising the need for urgency.

The NZEA Bill holds promise for advancing Australia's environmental and economic objectives and ensure a prosperous and sustainable future.

The NZEA Bill presents an all-encompassing and holistic model for the Authority that CEIG views as crucial for achieving environmental and economic objectives concurrently. This comprehensive strategy aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions substantially, facilitating Australia's journey toward becoming a renewable energy superpower. By fostering economic growth through renewable energy initiatives, the NZEA Bill paves the way for Australia to lead globally in the renewable sector, creating a ripple effect of innovation and sustainability across industries.

CEIG welcomes the NZEA Bill's emphasis on workforce transition. Through the Energy Industry Jobs Plan (the Plan), the NZEA Bill acknowledges the importance of supporting workers transitioning from fossil fuel-based industries to emerging green sectors. This Plan not only mitigates the adverse effects of industry shift on employment but also promotes social equity and labour market resilience. By facilitating retraining, upskilling, and employment opportunities in new energy sectors, the NZEA Bill ensures that no one is left behind in the transition.

In terms of governance, the NZEA Bill establishes a robust governance model for the Authority that ensures accountability and the systematic implementation of the Plan and other initiatives. Such a structured approach is vital for maintaining transparency, enhancing efficiency and achieving the targeted outcomes of the energy transition.

CEIG also supports the clear governance structures and responsibilities outlined in the NZEA Bill for the CEO and other officials within the Authority. These structures are foundational for effective management and strategic decision-making, enabling the Authority to navigate the complexities of the energy sector while steering the nation toward its net-zero targets.

Furthermore, the NZEA Bill's provision for the dynamic adjustment of the Authority's functions and the Plan is a testament to its flexibility and adaptability. This feature is crucial in a sector as dynamic and fast-evolving as energy. The ability to adapt to changing technologies, market conditions, and environmental imperatives will ensure that the Authority remains relevant and effective in promoting sustainable energy solutions.



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The diverse stakeholder environment within which the Authority operates underscores the need for a streamlined compliance and enforcement framework, and autonomy for the Authority to avoid operational inefficiencies. However, the absence of clear funding mechanisms raises concerns about the financial sustainability of the Authority's operations and the effective implementation of the Plan. It is critical that the Authority is afforded committed ongoing funding to ensure its viability. These matters notwithstanding, the NZEA Bill represents significant progress towards greater coordination in pursuit of net zero and in the journey towards becoming a renewable energy superpower.

CEIG thanks the Commonwealth Government for the opportunity to provide feedback on the NZEA Bill and looks forward to continued engagement regarding the issues considered. Our Policy Director can be contacted at _____ if you would like to further discuss any elements of this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Marilyne Crestias
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