



30 November 2022

Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Trade and Investment Growth  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretariat,

Farmers for Climate Action thanks the Committee for the opportunity to provide a submission to the inquiry into Australia's transition to a green energy superpower.

Farmers for Climate Action is a movement of farmers, agricultural leaders and rural Australians working to support Australia to adopt strong economy-wide climate policies. We represent more than 7,000 farmers across Australia, and our supporter base includes more than 35,000 Australians committed to climate action for agriculture.

Farmers for Climate Action recently released a report, [Farm Powered](#), which outlines the opportunities for regional communities in the renewable energy boom. The report found that with well targeted investment in the regions and sound policy, farmers and their communities would be perfectly placed to benefit from the roll out of renewable energy at a small, medium and large scale.

It is not only the farmers and rural communities who will benefit. This well targeted investment will provide the backbone of a strong and distributed energy system that can power not only Australia, but our neighbours and the world.

Farmers for Climate Action would like to draw the attention of the Committee to three recommendations from [Farm Powered](#) in particular:

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Farmers for Climate Action is a movement of farmers, agricultural leaders and rural Australians working to ensure farmers are a key part of the solution to climate change.

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- 1. The Federal Government, working together with the states, improves accessibility and fairness for farmers and regional communities in transmission and REZ planning, including:**
  - providing a mechanism for improved benefit sharing arrangements for transmission hosts and communities, including higher annual payments to hosts, payments to impacted neighbours, and funding for community benefit programs.
  - REZ's currently being rolled out should have support available for farmers and communities with independent advice provided in the contract negotiation stage of renewable energy developments.
- 2. The Federal Government demonstrates that agriculture and renewables can complement one another by allocating funding to establish an agrivoltaics research and knowledge sharing program, boosting farm profitability and showing communities that agriculture and energy production can co-exist.**
- 3. The Federal Government addresses the high capital costs of on-farm renewables and increase knowledge sharing by:**
  - Introducing renewable energy incentives for farmers, supported by a national energy audit program, to increase rapid uptake on farms and reduce input costs.
  - Subsidising on-farm batteries, funded from the National Reconstruction Fund within the Powering Australia policy, making them financially viable by reducing payback periods.
  - Establishing an agricultural program within the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) to fund demonstration and knowledge sharing projects for renewable energy and battery solutions on farm.

Farmers for Climate Action urges the Committee to consider the entirety of the [Farm Powered](#) report in exploring other opportunities to invest in Australia's renewable energy solutions.

If we act quickly, there are huge economic opportunities for farmers and regional Australians in renewable energy. Let's not miss the opportunity to create secure, resilient jobs and livelihoods for farmers and regional Australians, while capitalising on our abundant renewable natural resources to power the world.

Sincerely,

Fiona Davis  
CEO of Farmers for Climate Action