

Submission to expert review panel on the design of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation

This submission is not confidential.

I live approximately 2km from the site of the Hepburn Community Wind Farm in Leonards Hill, Victoria. My family and I are proud to be members of the co-operative that has built Australia's first community owned wind farm. (I am also an employee of Hepburn Wind but this submission is made in a personal capacity and in my own time.) Our community is justifiably proud of playing a leading role in Australia in the introduction of medium scale renewable energy generation, even though these projects are common in many countries overseas.

In summary, I believe that community initiated and controlled renewable energy project can play a vital role in Australia's transition to a clean energy future and should be actively supported by the Clean Energy Finance Corporation.

Community based medium-scale renewable energy projects can:

- Tap sources of capital not available to utility scale developments.
- Spread the economic benefits of renewable energy developments more widely into rural communities.
- Actively engage local communities in learning about and participating in the development of renewable energy infrastructure.

The CEFC should:

- Recognise the value of engaging the community in the clean energy transition by specifically supporting community energy projects.
- Ensure that community projects are not ruled out due to their relatively small scale.
- Make provision for early stage equity investment in community projects.

Jack Gilding

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