

## SUBMISSION TO C.E.F.C.

Dear Readers,

I am writing a submission to enhance the community aspects and social inclusion that needs to be a part of this clean energy revolution we are now exploring.

I am a local ward Councillor with Adelaide Hills Council, a long time volunteer in my district and a founder member of the new Community Energy Adelaide Hills group which is currently working on local solar, retrofit and wind initiatives through community investment and State and Federal grant funding.

We are now just a few years from grid parity for both solar and wind energy, some scientific papers say as little as two for domestic consumption. When grid parity is achieved there will be an exponential increase in commercial investment in both solar and wind. We have a small window between now and then to work on retrofitting to reduce domestic power consumption in preparation for parity.

Retrofitting is the “unsexy” but none the less vital component that needs to be funded to achieve a number of goals in power consumption and carbon reduction across the nation. While the mind automatically turns to the Federal Government’s insulation scheme, there is much to be gained from setting up energy auditing companies that can help domestic consumers with a multi disciplinary approach. I am

referring to physical applications such as window film, door and window seals, gap sealing in walls, ceilings, and floors, smart switch technology and LED lighting, and best practice applications such as streamlining appliance use and real time feedback technology.

These initiatives are relatively simple to roll out and can have a fairly immediate and powerful effect on both consumption and energy use habits. This will help to extend the life of the current electricity grid and defer needs for upgrades until the expansion of a decentralised power grid reduces this need as parity is reached.

In my community we are working on solarising our library and Council offices as priority, we will then extend our “behind the meter” grid to include the commercial heart of Stirling. Investors in this scheme will contribute a percentage of their returns towards solarising low income home owners in the district, this investment in our less financially able residents is necessary to give equality to the scheme and keep the community “on the same page”.

I would like to encourage the panel to look at companies and schemes that will provide an education as much as an evaluation, an opportunity for small business and a direct conversation with local government to aid in implementation.

I would appreciate any form of dialogue on this issue. Most of all I would like to impress on the panel that the best

solutions are locally owned and operated, and that communities are ready and willing to engage when they see that it increases their sense of energy security, community control and social enhancement, we are borrowing this beautiful planet from our children, let's do what it takes.

Kind regards,

Simon Jones.

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