



Dear Sir/Madam

RE: CLEAN ENERGY FINANCE CORPORATION EXPERT REVIEW COMMUNITY SUBMISSION

Zamzam Green welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the key themes set out for review by the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC). Zamzam Green recognises that the management of the CEFC is of high importance in implementing Australia's shift to a low carbon economy.

Zamzam Green is a not-for-profit community organisation working with and for the Muslim community toward a sustainable and environmentally aware future in accordance with the teachings of Islam. It is working with a variety of organisations including local and state governments, Environment Victoria, Moreland Energy Foundation and a number of community groups and centres to work toward its objective.

Zamzam Green welcomes the introduction of the CEFC, and looks forward to it beginning operations to further investment in renewable energy in Australia.

As part of the operations of the CEFC Zamzam Green would like to see the scope for operations include and provide specific attention to the community energy sector. It is this sector that we see as integral in providing understanding and support from the Australian community for clean energy policy, and assisting the roll out of clean energy infrastructure.

The community energy sector requires support through the CEFC in three basic ways:

- Recognise the value of engaging the community in the clean energy transition by specifically including community energy projects
- Ensure that the relatively small scale of community energy projects does not rule them out
- Make provision for early stage equity investment in community projects.

We see the market gap in financing low emissions technologies the bi-product of existing government policies – both state and federal - that cater for energy production to come for large-scale private facilities utilising fossil fuels. Government policies and market mechanisms that favour fossil fuel energy production in Australia must be terminated to make way for the same policy and market advantages to be placed on renewables and other low carbon energy production methods. The high centralisation of energy production in places like the Latrobe Valley in Victoria demonstrates the need for the sector to be decentralised to prepare for future energy demands, brown outs and energy efficiencies. With policies and energy markets favouring fossil fuel energy production, investment will remain high in dirty energy production and low in clean energy production.



As the CEFC's objective is to 'overcome capital market barriers that hinder the financing, commercialisation and deployment of renewable energy, energy efficiency and low emissions technologies'; the CEFC must work with government and market organisations to improve policies, subsidies and market structures. The CEFC must also invest in community energy projects to ensure the decentralisation of energy production and a reconfiguration of the energy market is capable. This has more benefits to the community in terms of the overall Clean Energy Future objectives than other investment opportunities.

The best example of the community energy sector working toward community understanding and support of clean energy has been seen in Denmark. Case studies carried out on the Danish model demonstrate clearly the widespread effectiveness of the community energy sector when supported by government policies. This model has been successful for over 20 years and is now popular in other countries and economies, with Australia's first model coming from Hepburn Wind in Victoria. Community projects like this must be supported by policy, investment and market mechanisms of which the CEFC can and should play an integral role.

Again, Zamzam Green appreciates the opportunity to participate through this submission, and looks forward to a clean energy future supported by the CEFC, Muslim and wider Australian community.

Kind regards,

Michael Stapleton

Manager  
Zamzam Green  
[michaelmstapleton@gmail.com](mailto:michaelmstapleton@gmail.com)