

Email from Australian Federal Member of Parliament for Hotham – Claire O’Neil

Thank you for your email regarding the future of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA).

Labor has a proud record of driving renewable energy growth in Australia, and our commitment to the sector continues with a package that will save ARENA.

Australia under Labor was rated one of the four most attractive destinations for renewable energy investment – with the US, China and Germany. This ranking plummeted under the Liberal Government.

Labor has consistently resisted attempts by the Abbott and Turnbull Governments to undermine the renewable energy industry, and we are doing so again.

Through Labor’s strong advocacy, Labor has struck an agreement with the Turnbull Government that provides ARENA with a secured budget of \$800 million over 5 years that ARENA has stated will allow it to continue its important work.

This funding is in addition to the funding ARENA has in place to complete around 200 existing projects, as well as the twelve new large-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) plants announced on 8 September that are set to be constructed across Australia.

Importantly, this package will also deliver the industry some much needed certainty after three years of attacks by the Abbott and Turnbull Governments.

Labor views the future of renewable research funded by ARENA and conducted with the CSIRO and our universities as ARENA’s highest priority. The \$800 million of secured ARENA funding is sufficient to ensure this work and the jobs it funds will continue and grow.

In addition, Labor and the Government have agreed to discussions about opportunities for bipartisan agreement around policies to accelerate the transition to a modern, clean energy system that delivers reliable, affordable energy to Australian households and business.

I am confident that this will strengthen renewables in Australia and is the first step in having a more bipartisan approach to renewable energy and climate change policy more broadly.

Thank you again for contacting me about this important matter.

With kind regards,

Claire O’Neil, Federal Member of Parliament for Hotham Electorate, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory (ACT), Australia