



Media Correction: Clean Energy Investor Group Clarifies Position on Environmental Assessment Processes

Monday 17 June 2024, Canberra: The Clean Energy Investor Group (CEIG) wishes to address recent misreporting by The Australian and SkyNews regarding our position on the Federal Government's renewable energy targets and environmental assessment processes.

Contrary to the reports, CEIG does not advocate for the weakening of environmental assessment requirements; nor has CEIG states that the Federal Government's 82 per cent renewable target will fail to be delivered.

The information which was incorrectly reported was taken from a misinterpretation of CEIG's response to Commonwealth Government's consultation paper on Onshore Wind Farm Guidance.

Our submission underscores the necessity for improving the efficiency and clarity of EPBC processes without compromising their integrity to ensure we remain on track to meet climate targets.

Key Points of Clarification:

1. Efficient Environmental Assessments:

- CEIG supports the development of Onshore Wind Farm Guidelines under the EPBC Act and acknowledges the recent federal budget commitment for approval process improvements.
- We emphasise the importance of the Federal Government's renewable energy target, even though it will be challenging to achieve without effective reform to the administration of the EPBC Act.

2. Improvement of EPBC Act Administration:

- Clean energy projects are currently hindered by significant assessment process delays, necessitating a coordinated approach to environmental assessments. Securing

environmental approval is becoming increasingly challenging, particularly for wind projects. CEIG supports robust EPBC assessments, however the processes in place within the department to administer the EPBC Act are a cause of significant delays and remain a large issue for the energy sector.

- CEIG encourages the Commonwealth Government to enhance the administration of the EPBC Act by establishing clearer processing times and committing to definitive timelines for Requests for Information.

3. Balanced Approach to Environmental and Climate Goals:

- CEIG stresses the need for a balanced approach that considers both environmental protection and climate mitigation goals.
- We caution against extensive survey periods that could delay approvals under the EPBC Act and hinder the energy transition and instead propose to adopt the industry standard of one year of surveys conducted during appropriate seasons for relevant species, with the ability for longer surveys on a case-by-case basis.

4. Strategic Planning and Investment Encouragement:

- CEIG recommends adopting a systems thinking approach with proactive regional planning and spatial tools to ensure optimal, strategically-sited projects.

We request that The Australian and SkyNews issue corrections to reflect our actual position. Specifically, the statement that "Mr. Zelcer said the department must weaken its requirement" is false and was never part of our submission. Accurate representation of our stance is crucial for informed public discourse and the advancement of Australia's renewable energy goals.

For further information, please refer to [our detailed submission](#) or contact our media relations team.

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About the Clean Energy Investor Group

The Clean Energy Investor Group presents domestic and global investors with a combined Australian portfolio value of over A\$38 billion and more than 76 clean energy assets under management. It is an investor body, representing the unique perspective of clean energy investors to regulators, policy makers and the broader energy sector.

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