



## **CEIG welcomes NSW Energy Planning Framework**

The Clean Energy Investor Group (CEIG) today expressed strong support for the NSW Government's changes to its planning assessment processes as set out in the Renewable Energy Planning Framework. These reforms, aimed at supporting the transition to clean energy, promise to improve investment certainty, facilitate decision-making processes, and benefit local communities across NSW.

This is critical for NSW which must urgently work to replace its ageing, unreliable coal-fired plants and enable investment in new clean energy capacity to ensure the recent extension to Eraring's operation was a one-off, not to be repeated with any other NSW coal plants.

CEIG applauds the proactive steps taken by the NSW Government in developing these reforms. CEIG particularly appreciates the consideration of its feedback in shaping the Renewable Energy Planning Framework. Key elements of the reforms that CEIG has supported include:

- **Visual Impact Assessments:** CEIG supports the focus on existing dwellings and the change in setback distances, advocating for consistent visual setback distances between wind turbines and transmission towers.
- **Dwelling Entitlements:** CEIG welcomes the provision of a clear methodology for assessing impacts on dwelling entitlements.
- **Benefit Sharing:** CEIG appreciates the clarification on benefit sharing rates and the guidance on distributing benefits to communities, which reflect a balanced consideration of the impact experienced and the size of the affected community groups.
- **Private Agreement Guidelines:** CEIG endorses the shift from bespoke clauses towards offering more generalised guidance and model clauses for private agreements, fostering clear and equitable negotiations between developers and landowners.

The NSW Government's Renewable Energy Planning Framework represents a significant step in the transition to a clean energy future. CEIG remains committed to supporting these

efforts and ensuring that the transition to clean energy is both efficient and beneficial for all stakeholders involved.

### **Quotes from CEIG CEO Richie Merzian**

“CEIG is encouraged by the NSW Government’s commitment to facilitating the clean energy transition through thoughtful and well-consulted planning reforms. The proposed Renewable Energy Planning Framework addresses many of our industry’s concerns and lays a solid foundation for achieving NSW’s climate goals. We look forward to continued collaboration with the Department to ensure these reforms effectively support the efficient delivery of clean energy infrastructure.”

### **Quotes from CEIG Head of Policy & Advocacy Marilyne Crestias**

“Clarity around the planning process in NSW is critical to improve investor confidence. We are encouraged by the NSW Government’s clear focus on clean energy developments as they have done today by providing clarity on planning processes with the release of the Renewable Energy Planning Framework, and we encourage them to declare the recent Eraring extension a one-off not to be repeated with other coal plants”.

"We appreciate the NSW Government’s consideration of much of CEIG’s feedback on the Renewable Energy Planning Framework. This is a critically important issue for CEIG members and pivotal in accelerating the clean energy transition and achieving NSW’s broader climate goals."

“These reforms mark a major milestone in NSW’s transition to clean energy, addressing key issues that matter to investors, developers, and local communities alike. By increasing clarity in visual impact assessments, benefit sharing, and private agreements, the NSW Government is fostering an environment of investment certainty and community benefit.”

“CEIG applauds the NSW Government for incorporating our feedback on crucial areas like setback distances, benefit sharing, and private agreements. These reforms not only support investor confidence but also ensure positive impacts for NSW communities.”

## **ENDS**

### **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.

<https://www.ceig.org.au/>