



Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle

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**Hon Anthony Albanese MP  
Federal Member for Grayndler**

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**Dear Mr Albanese,**

**Proposed cuts to ARENA**

Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle is a community group based in the Grayndler electorate. Our more than 750 registered supporters are united in our aim to help create a world which is much less reliant on fossil fuels, particularly coal, and to head off the greatest catastrophe now facing the earth, that of global warming.

We write to you in concern about the ALP's apparent position on the Turnbull Government's proposed cuts to the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA).

These cuts, if implemented, will yet again dramatically slow the transition from dirty to clean energy by crippling investment in new renewable energy technologies and projects. We are dismayed that the ALP is indicating that it will not oppose these cuts.

ARENA plays a critical role in finding solutions to emerging challenges. Many of the projects that ARENA currently supports are those that will bridge the gap between proven ideas and full implementation.

For example, the rapid growth of distributed solar energy generation is posing new engineering and technological challenges as it is integrated into the grid. Among many such projects, ARENA support is crucial for the world's largest battery storage virtual power plant in South Australia, which addresses issues around grid stability and power price volatility.

Without ARENA, these projects and many others would struggle to receive funding. ARENA funding is vital for the renewable energy sector.

Effectively reducing ARENA's ability to provide grants to support these enabling projects cripples not only those development projects but also the large-scale commercial developments that will depend on their successful and rapid implementation.

ARENA's support for projects is not simply a subsidy for the emerging Renewable Energy industry: it is a vital part of Australia's attempts to rein in carbon emissions in line with our commitments to the Paris agreement, and to limit the effects of our changing climate.

For the sake of Australia's environment and clean energy jobs, in a country that values innovation, we call upon the Federal Opposition to oppose the Turnbull Government's attacks on ARENA.

**Yours sincerely**

**Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle**

**(Dominic Case, President)**

**26<sup>th</sup> August 2016**