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Ms Cathy O'Toole MP cathy.o'toole.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms O'Toole.

Congratulations on your election to the Australian Parliament. We look forward to working with you on issues close to us both.

Please don't support cuts to ARENA funding

The North Queensland Conservation Council, on behalf of our members and supporters, urge you as our elected Member of Parliament, to fight for the continued funding of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA).

ARENA is responsible for Australia's most innovative renewable energy projects by driving investment into the sector. ARENA funding bridges the investment gap and reduce investment risk, which accelerates innovation to make the transition to renewable energy faster, cheaper and easier.¹

We know that you and the Australian Labor Party are committed to acting on climate change and increasing our investment in renewable energies.

Sixty projects have been completed with ARENA funding across Australia, with 200 being currently managed. The majority (70%) of ARENA funding has been invested in regional and rural electorates.²

There are 10 large-scale solar projects planned for our State currently being considered by ARENA. These projects will create around 2,600 direct jobs. Of these 10 projects, 8 are located within North Queensland.³

We need to continue to attract innovation and open up job opportunities in the renewable energy sector. We need to continue research and development in commercialising clean energy technology. Cutting funding to ARENA is inhibitive to achieving our shared goals of a cleaner, safer, brighter future.

Yours faithfully,

MARQibell

Maree Dibella Coordinator

¹ Australian Renewable Energy Agency, 'ARENA: accelerating innovation'

² Australian Renewable Energy Agency, 'Projects'

³ Queensland Government, 'Queensland solar projects jump one step closer to construction', January 2016