

Dear Prime Minister Scott Morrison,

Australia has become an international leader in renewable energy innovation, utilising ground-breaking research to capitalise on our wealth of solar and renewable energy resources.

Australia's potential to continue and grow as a global leader is at risk if the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) loses funding or its renewable-focused mandate.

For nearly a decade, ARENA has played a crucial role in supporting renewable energy innovation, from the research and development stage through to commercialisation.

This funding has produced ground-breaking renewable energy research, including the development of some of the best solar PV and solar thermal technology in the world. Investment in the pioneering solar farms in Broken Hill and Nyngan paved the way for large-scale solar projects in Australia, including one of the largest solar facilities in the Southern Hemisphere.

ARENA has provided funding for hundreds of renewable energy projects, delivering thousands of jobs, billions of dollars of private investment, and driven down the costs of all forms of renewable energy. These projects have partnered researchers and industry experts to develop solutions for the challenges faced integrating renewables into our grid, and brought valuable commercial outcomes for Australians.

As demand for clean energy solutions grows, there has never been a more crucial time for Australia to invest in innovation. The investments made by ARENA support the future of accessible, affordable and reliable clean energy in Australia.

In 2016, \$460 million was cut from ARENA's budget, reducing its ability to fast-track Australia's energy revolution.

We're calling on the Government to:

1. Restore the \$460 million of ARENA funding in the 2020 budget
2. Develop a long-term funding strategy for ARENA to 2030 with a renewable-focused mandate

Prime Minister, you must save ARENA and preserve Australia's place as a global innovation leader.

Yours sincerely,

Ivor Frischknecht (Former CEO of ARENA; Independent non-executive Director and Advisor)

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