



2024-25 Additional Estimates – Opening Statement

On behalf of the CEFC, I am pleased to provide the Committee with an opening statement.

Recapitalisation

- We very much welcome and thank the Parliament for the additional capital allocated to the CEFC General Portfolio and Rewiring the Nation (RTN) Fund included in the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) and passed by the Parliament in the relevant appropriation bills on 12 February, receiving Royal Assent on 14 February.
- This is the first increase in the investment capacity of the CEFC General Portfolio since the CEFC was established in 2012.
- CEFC investment commitments through the General Portfolio include renewable energy generation and storage, property, electric vehicles, infrastructure and natural capital.
- It also includes capital for our asset finance programs, which provide discounted finance to households, small businesses and farmers across approximately 80,000 smaller-scale clean energy investments.
- The CEFC has been very active in the six months to December 2024, with investment commitments of \$1.1 billion made through the General Portfolio, with a total transaction value of \$6.3 billion, representing an additional \$4.85 for each dollar of CEFC capital committed.
- This is a strong indication of the market interest in a diverse range of clean energy investment opportunities.
- We expect this additional capital to be particularly important for increasing our investment in much-needed renewable energy generation and storage projects, both of which are central to delivering on our investment mandate and the Government's emissions reduction targets.
- The Government has also provided a top-up for the RTN Fund – effecting the Government's intentions for further Rewiring the Nation works. Rewiring the Nation invests to modernise our electricity grid and deliver new and upgraded grid infrastructure.
- Late last year in fact, CEFC announced approximately \$2 billion to Transgrid for the construction of HumeLink and VNI West early works in NSW. Representing CEFC's single largest investment commitment, the infrastructure will deliver up to 2,000MW of pumped storage to major population centres, with Transgrid modelling estimating this vast firming capacity will also enable the grid transmission of an additional 2,570MW of renewable energy.
- We see these additional capital allocations as an important demonstration of the Parliament's support for the work of the CEFC.
- I thank the Committee and look forward to answering your questions.