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Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
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Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
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Email: eca.sen@aph.gov.au

24 May 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Inquiry into the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Bill 2010 and related Bills

WWF-Australia welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Senate Inquiry into the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Bill 2010* and two related Bills [*Renewable Energy (Electricity) (Charge) Amendment Bill 2010*; *Renewable Energy (Electricity) (Small-scale Technology Shortfall Charge) Bill 2010*].

Please find attached a submission to the Department of Climate Change in relation to enhancing the renewable energy target which I request be taken to be a submission for the purpose of this Senate Inquiry. In particular I confirm that WWF supports the separation of the existing RET Scheme into the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES) and Large-scale Renewable Energy Target (LRET) in order to provide the clean energy sector with a much needed measure of confidence. WWF submits that the amendments to give effect to this should be made as soon as practicable and that all endeavours should be made for their passage in the current Parliamentary term.

Meeting Australia's fair share of the mitigation objective in the Copenhagen Accord (avoiding a warming of more than 2°C above pre-industrial temperatures) will require Australia to reduce its energy and industrial sector emissions to close to zero by 2050. Within a comparatively short period of time all of Australia's emissions reductions will need to be achieved in-country (rather than through emission reduction/avoidance credits generated overseas). This will require an unprecedented transformation of the Australian energy and industrial sectors and renewable sources of energy will play a premier role.

While supporting the immediate passage of the Bill in its current form, WWF is concerned that three particular elements of the proposed Scheme may impede the early establishment of transformational clean energy industries:

1. The ability to use unlimited quantities of existing "banked" RECs in the Large-scale Renewable Energy Target; and/or
2. The decision to refrain from including provisions to foster the deployment of transformational zero emission electricity generation by 2020 such as a band or multiplier as proposed in



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WWF's submission to the Senate Inquiry into the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Bill 2009* dated 19 July 2009 (a copy of which is attached); and/or

3. The existing exemptions provided to Emissions Intensive Trade Exposed industries under the RET Scheme.

WWF therefore submits that the Bill be amended to require that these three issues be made the subject of particular investigation in the inquiry into the Scheme proposed to be held in 2012.

Yours faithfully

—

Paul Toni
Program Leader – Sustainable Development