



1 March 2022

Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

Exposure Draft Security Legislation Amendment (Critical Infrastructure Protection) Bill 2022

The Clean Energy Council is pleased to provide a submission to Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (**PJCIS**) on the Exposure Draft Security Legislation Amendment (Critical Infrastructure Protection) Bill 2022 (**the Exposure Draft Bill**).

The Clean Energy Council (**CEC**) is the peak body for the clean energy industry in Australia. We represent and work with over 900 of the leading businesses operating in renewable energy, energy storage and renewable hydrogen. We are committed to accelerating Australia's clean energy transformation. Our submission to the PJCIS reiterates our submission to the Department of Home Affairs (**the Department**) dated 1 February 2022.

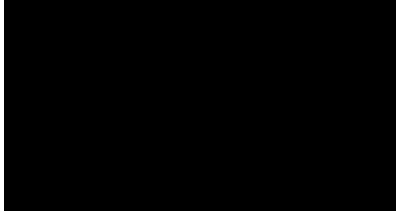
The clean energy sector recognises the importance of protecting critical infrastructure from security risks and supports the Department's ambition to build the resilience of the electricity sector. As the Department is aware, the Security of Critical Infrastructure framework is new to most of the renewable energy sector due to the significant change to the definition of 'critical electricity asset' to now include almost all generation assets connected to the grid.

Our main concern with the Exposure Draft Bill is the short, six-month period proposed to be allocated for responsible entities to prepare a Risk Management Program. A Risk Management Program is a massive undertaking for responsible entities, and touches on several areas of the business. Furthermore, as seen in the Department's Regulatory Impact Statement (**RIS**) estimations in 2021, the costs involved with a Risk Management Program are significant and will be extremely onerous for all entities, let alone smaller generators (under Option 2, the RIS estimated the average cost of compliance as being \$13.1 million in one-off costs and \$4.6 million per year in ongoing costs). We consider the cost of preparing and complying with a Risk Management Program has the potential to change the fundamental business case of smaller projects, impede new investment and ultimately outweigh the net benefits of the Security of Critical Infrastructure framework.

We therefore submit that six months is insufficient to allow for the required forward planning and essential budgeting across the coming financial years. **We request a 12-month delayed commencement for the rules under Part 2A, as a minimum, to allow an appropriate transition period for industry.**

Thank you for again this opportunity to provide feedback on the Exposure Draft Bill. Please contact [REDACTED] should you wish to discuss these matters further.

Yours sincerely



Nicholas Aberle
Policy Director, Energy Generation and Storage