

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 208
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC)
Topic: Emerging state renewable energy schemes
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Question Date: 08 February 2016
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Singh asked:

Senator SINGH: Are you able to give us a summary of the impact of the emerging state renewable energy schemes, such as the ACT reverse auction scheme?

Mr Yates: Those schemes have been critical for most of the successful projects that have been contracted in the last 12 months. They provide that certainty of a long-term contract, and the ACT was offering a 20-year fixed price contract for power from renewable energy resources. And that obviously provides certainty to a developer about their income stream and therefore they can develop a project. So they are a very important part of the landscape at the moment, because whilst the commercial sector is reluctant to provide long-term power contracts, we are seeing state governments step up to provide these long-term contracts, which are necessary to enable developments to get underway.

Senator SINGH: Is there some kind of summary?

Mr Yates: I can probably on notice come back to you with a summary of what all the state schemes are and their likely impact in terms of generation capacity.

Answer:

The Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) is aware of 10 schemes across all states and territories except the Northern Territory and Tasmania, supporting an estimated ~1200MW renewable energy capacity.

Programs we're aware of are listed in the table below, including concluded and active projects (at March 2016). Capacity estimates are marked with "~" where the program specifies an amount of generation or number of Large-scale generation certificates, rather than a capacity target.

Australian Capital Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar Auction (40MW) • ACT Wind Auction (200MW) • ACT Wind Auction II (200MW) • Next Generation Solar (109MW)
Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ergon EOI for supply and offtake of electricity and large-scale renewable energy certificates (150MW) • Solar 60 (60MW)
Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable Certificate Purchasing Initiative (100MW)
New South Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sydney Metro North-west line procurement for renewable energy (~40-60MW)
South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Carbon Electricity Supply and Services EOI (~180MW)
Western Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synergy tender for large-scale renewable energy certificates (~190MW)
Total*	~1200MW

* Total is rounded down using lower end estimates of capacity where a range is provided (e.g. NSW)

The CEFC is also aware of two corporate procurement programs for around 100MW of renewable energy generation capacity:

- WWF Renewable Energy Buyers Forum (~40-50MW)
- Melbourne Renewable Energy Project (~45-60MW)