



PO Box 242
HAZELBROOK NSW 2779

Phone 4787 9108

Permaculture Blue Mountains is an incorporated association that works to promote sustainable systems including growing a community energy projects across the Blue Mountains. Its members include health professionals, community workers, community gardeners, teachers, academics and development practitioners.

We believe that there are three basic requirements for supporting the community energy sector:

- recognise the value of engaging the community in the clean energy transition by specifically including community energy projects
- ensure that community projects are not ruled out due to their relatively small scale
- make provision for early stage equity investment in community projects

We believe that the community energy sector warrants specific attention in the construction of the CEFC as it will underpin community understanding of and support for both clean energy policy and the roll out of clean energy infrastructure.

We believe that the local economic and social benefits of these projects will play a vital role in building the broad social licence for renewables.

We believe that a vibrant community energy sector is an economically efficient and socially desirable solution for building the social license required to dramatically drive towards a clean energy future in Australia.

There are other barriers to entry into renewable energy generation for smaller scale projects, as well as market capital barriers. So we also recommend that the scope of the CEFC include collection of data regarding other barriers in this market, including gathering data directly from recipients of CEFC financing. This helps to understand the comparative usefulness of a capital investment within the Australian power generation's state based regulatory landscape.

Pat Rayner
Coordinator Permaculture Blue Mountains
www.permaculturebluemountains.net