



Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016

The Director

Renewable Energy

Department of Environment Land Water and Planning

P.O Box 500,

Melbourne.

VIC 3000

**Ref: Victorian Renewable Energy Auctions**

The Committee for Portland wish to make a submission to the State Government on its recently released Victorian Renewable Energy Auction Scheme Consultation Paper.

With the Andrews Government announcing its commitment to the Victorian Renewable Energy Target of 25% by 2020, optimism has returned to the sector that could result in real opportunities for Portland. For many years the Committee for Portland has advocated for Portland to position itself as the Renewable Energy Hub of Australia and with the prospect of the government ensuring local content in wind farm projects this proposition can come to fruition.

Portland MADE is an initiative of the Committee for Portland that brings together local manufacturing companies. MADE stands for Manufacturing and Design Engineering and in Portland we have a number of companies that have specific capabilities designed to support wind farm projects. Together as a community we can all benefit from the government setting mandatory local content as part of the evaluation criteria for wind farm projects and us such we support Keppel Prince Engineering's proposal of setting local content at 55%.

Faced with significant changes to local economic structures in Portland (possible closure of Alcoa) and population decline across the region, the Committee for Portland is focused on developing a more diverse economy that can sustain Portland into the future; job creation in the Renewable Energy sector will form part of our 'new' economy.

However our manufacturing companies need certainty with regards to investing in equipment and human capital in order to meet the requirements necessary for the government to achieve its renewable energy targets in 2020 and 2025. We believe the government will be able to achieve these ambitious targets using local companies who employ local people.

The Committee for Portland's Manufacturing Industry in the Glenelg Shire Position Paper 2013 indentifies manufacturing as the largest employer in the region directly employing 1,450 people (17%), with an approved multiplier effect of 2.3, the region's manufacturers indirectly supports a further 1,890 jobs.

When companies submit tenders based on mandatory local content requirements they will be able demonstrate value for money because of the flow on the effect that is generated with employment in supply chain businesses. These employment opportunities will ensure the government will achieve its objective of generating 4,000 new jobs in Victoria thereby also supporting growth in regional development.

In relation to other matters that the State could consider is investment in research and design for companies willing to advance the industry. Innovation and jobs for the future could assist Western Victoria and in particular young people looking at staying in the region. Opportunities to connect and partner with regional Universities such as Deakin could provide new career pathways in renewable energy.

The Committee for Portland welcomes the State Government's genuine interest in rebuilding the Renewable Energy sector and looks forward to the benefits that can be achieved not only in economic terms but also reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

For more information or details on the Committee for Portland's involvement in Renewable Energy please feel free to contact myself.

Kind Regards,

*Anita Rank*

Anita Rank  
Executive Officer

Committee for Portland

**Supporting Information:** MADE Vision: Portland MADE will work together, to enhance productivity and create more opportunities for sustainable growth and profitability of its members.

**Related Documents:** Portland MADE Capabilities Document 2016

Manufacturing Fact Sheet 1

Committee for Portland Manufacturing Industry in Glenelg Shire; Position Paper 2013