



2 September 2016

Mr Scott Hamilton
Executive Director, Renewable Energy
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Via email: renewable.energy@delwp.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr Hamilton,

RE: SUBMISSION REGARDING VICTORIAN RENEWABLE ENERGY AUCTIONS SCHEME

On behalf of the Victorian Trades Hall Council (VTHC), I would like to make a brief submission regarding the Victorian Renewable Energy Auction Scheme consultation paper.

I welcome the Andrews Government's commitment to renewable energy and setting achievable renewable energy targets to drive investment in the sector.

I commend the Victorian Government for their forward thinking here and thank Minister D'Ambrosio and her department for their consultation with VTHC.

VTHC was founded in 1856 and is the peak body for unions in Victoria. VTHC represents approximately 40 unions and over 400,000 workers in Victoria. These workers are members of unions that reach into every industry in the state, both in the public and private sectors.

VTHC would like to note two key planks of the renewable energy auction scheme we wish to highlight, specifically:

- Job creation opportunities and
- Importance of community consultation, including workers.

LUKE HILAKARI

Secretary

DAVID CRAGG

Assistant Secretary

Trades Hall

54 Victoria Street
Carlton South, 3053

Telephone: 03 9659 3511

info@vthc.org.au

vthc.org.au

weareunion.org.au

JOB CREATION OPPORTUNITIES

The introduction of the renewable energy auction scheme must drive job creation. It must lead to more local jobs in manufacturing, distribution and new technologies.

For this to be achieved, additional weighting must be given to applicants that are able to clearly demonstrate how many jobs will be created and where. The standard "value for money" model (as noted in the evaluation principles in the consultation paper) which is often adopted by government departments is woefully insufficient for accurately accessing the value of locally-made content.





In line with the Andrews Government's commitment to apprenticeships and local content targets on government projects such as level crossing removals, VTHC would expect similar or stronger targets be set for the auction scheme.

It is also important that applicants who are successful in winning contracts must be held accountable for the job creation they claimed.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

VTHC strongly supports quality consultation with the community as key to the flourishing of the renewable energy sector, particularly in regional and rural areas. Specifically, workers and their families must be given an opportunity to provide feedback.

As part of this commitment to community consultation, VTHC also supports energy projects that are community-owned and community-run.

If you have any questions regarding this submission, please do not hesitate to contact

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Luke Hilakari
Secretary

Ref: lh:db

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