



31 August 2020

Foreign Investment Division  
Treasury  
Via email: [FIRBstakeholders@treasury.gov.au](mailto:FIRBstakeholders@treasury.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Major reforms to the Foreign Investment Review Framework**

The Clean Energy Council (CEC) is the peak body for the clean energy industry in Australia, representing and working with over 800 of the leading businesses operating in renewable energy and energy storage. We are committed to accelerating Australia's clean energy future.

We note the release of the exposure draft of the *Foreign Investment Reform (Protecting Australia's National Security) Bill 2020* and the proposed amendments regarding the creation of a new national security test and a 'national security business' category.

It is the CEC's understanding that, currently, renewable energy assets would not be classified as 'national security businesses' within the *Foreign Investment Reform Bill 2020* because they are not regarded as 'critical infrastructure assets' under the *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018* (Cth).

However, we are aware that there is a proposal to expand the definition of 'critical infrastructure assets' as part of the current review of the Security of Critical Infrastructure policy. and were such a proposal to be implemented, renewable energy assets would therefore be classified as a 'national security business'.

The Clean Energy Council is currently reviewing the implications of these potential changes in consultation with its members and intends to make a submission to the Department of Home Affairs as part of the Security of Critical Infrastructure consultation process.

Should you wish to engage with the renewable energy sector directly about the review, please get in touch with me on 0417 033 752 or at [afreeman@cleanenergycouncil.org.au](mailto:afreeman@cleanenergycouncil.org.au).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Freeman'.

Anna Freeman  
Director Energy Generation