



MEDIA RELEASE

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Minister for Resources and Energy
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FACT SHEET 1:

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY – INAUGURAL BOARD APPOINTED

The Australian Government today announced the appointment of the seven member inaugural Board of the Australian Centre for Renewable Energy (ACRE).

ACRE was legislated in March 2010 to be the Australian Government's central agency for renewable energy technology research, development and demonstration programs.

The ACRE Board Members are:

- Chair – Professor Mary O’Kane. Professor O’Kane is the NSW Chief Scientist and Scientific Engineer;
- Dr Bruce Godfrey, Chair of the Australian Solar Institute Research Advisory Committee and a member of the AusIndustry Climate Ready Committee;
- Mr Steve MacDonald, CEO of Transfield Services Infrastructure Fund and a member of the Clean Energy Council Board;
- Ms Amanda Heyworth, CEO of the Playford Capital technology seed fund;
- Dr Brian Spalding, a Commissioner of the Australian Energy Market Commission;
- Dr Beverley Ronalds, Group Executive, Energy, at the Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organisation (CSIRO) and a member of the Board of Innovation Australia; and
- Mr Richard Bolt, Secretary of the Victorian Government Department of Primary Industries.

ACRE is a key component of the Australian Government's expanded \$5.1 billion Clean Energy Initiative which supports Australia's response to climate change.

ACRE aims to drive down the costs of renewable energy technologies for households and industry and encourage their uptake.

A key task for the Board will be to develop a funding strategy including establishing a venture capital mechanism to accelerate the development, commercialisation and deployment of renewable energy and enabling technologies.

ACRE will manage more than \$560 million in renewable energy programs and initiatives, including the:

- Renewable Energy Demonstration Program (REDP) - \$235 million for four demonstration projects;
- ACRE funding of solar projects under the REDP - \$92 million for two projects;

- \$15 million Second Generation Biofuels Research and Development Program (Gen 2);
- \$50 million Geothermal Drilling Program (GDP);
- \$14 million Wind Energy Forecasting Capability Program;
- \$20 million Advanced Electricity Storage Technologies Program;
- \$18 million Renewable Energy Equity Fund; and
- Funding of new initiatives, including a venture capital mechanism.

ACRE consolidates efforts to support the development of renewable and enabling energy technologies and will be the focal point for the Australian Government's efforts in the renewable energy technology sector.

The Board will also provide advice to Government on skills and capacity-building in the sector and foster collaboration between Australian and overseas governments, industry and the research community on renewable energy technologies.

It is particularly important that ACRE works with State and Territory Governments to increase the demonstration and deployment of renewable energy technologies in Australia.

ACRE will also complement the Australian Government's solar energy initiatives, the Australian Solar Institute and Solar Flagships Program, as well as helping to develop the next generation of renewable energy technologies that can prosper under the Government's 20 per cent by 2020 expanded Renewable Energy Target.

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