



ACT
Government



2015

RENEWABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

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OBJECTIVE

The ACT Renewable Energy Industry Development Strategy (the Strategy) has been developed to accelerate the development of a vibrant, export-oriented, renewable energy industry in the ACT for the benefit of participating businesses, institutions and the ACT community.

Renewable energy jobs in the ACT have increased over 400% over the past five years – a rate of growth four times higher than any other Australian state or territory.

The Strategy builds on the natural competitive advantages of the ACT as a knowledge economy with a dynamic renewable energy sector. It leverages existing and planned investments in solar and wind energy generation and renewable energy storage towards the ACT Government's 90% by 2020 renewable energy target.



A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

The Strategy is inclusive, driven by open collaboration between the ACT Government, research and education institutions and industry. Inaugural partners to this strategy provide a core group of interested stakeholders that will grow and be extended over time.

INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

Consistent with the ACT Government's Renewable Energy Local Investment Framework, inaugural partners to this strategy have agreed to the following priorities for local industry development:

1. Deliver enduring benefits to local businesses through the inclusion of regional contractors and labour force.
2. Build Canberra's capacity as a national tertiary education and trades' skills hub.
3. Stimulate productive research partnerships that will develop the capacity and global recognition of our tertiary institutions.
4. Grow the local corporate footprint of national and international businesses.

The Strategy supports the implementation of the Framework and the government's vision for Canberra to grow as an internationally recognised centre for renewable energy innovation and investment.

TIMESCALE FOR ACTION

The Strategy comprises 14 initial actions to be completed by 2016. A review of the strategy in 2016 will determine the scope and timing of future actions.

A window of opportunity exists to grow our vibrant renewable energy industry in the ACT. This reflects the timescales of the ACT's planned investment in renewables and the timing of the South East Region for Renewable Energy Excellence (SERREE) regional renewable energy industry cluster initiative.

STRATEGIC COOPERATION

Solar, wind and energy storage businesses have a shared interest in opening up new markets and reducing costs to compete with incumbent fossil fuel generators. This, and the strong growth prospects for innovators in industry, provides an opportunity for strategic cooperation between businesses, universities, governments and investors.

The Strategy seeks to facilitate strategic cooperation between participants in the ACT's renewable energy industries to build local expertise and capability that will support the development of high value products and services. This will generate long term benefits for participants and the ACT community.

Figure 1: Strategic cooperation involves collaboration in identifying market opportunities, research and development, product and service delivery, and routes to market.



CANBERRA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

ACT GOVERNMENT

90% Renewable Energy Target – The ACT Government's 90% Renewable Energy Target and reverse auction processes are important drivers for the development of renewable energy industries in the ACT. Leveraging the success of the 40 MW solar and 200 MW wind auctions, the ACT government will continue to invest in large-scale renewable energy, with the Renewable Energy Local Investment Framework setting priorities for the development of renewable energy industries in the Territory.

Renewable Energy Innovation Fund – The \$1.2 million Renewable Energy Innovation Fund (REIF) was developed under the Local Investment Framework for the 200 MW wind auction. Guided by a longer-term strategic vision of the energy industry and informed by near-term industry-specific market needs, REIF provides competitive, project-specific contracts to emerging ACT-based renewable energy businesses.

VENTURE SUPPORT AND INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS

Support Programs – Existing initiatives, such as the CBR Innovation Network, Innovation Connect, ANU Connect Ventures' Discovery Translation Fund, and the GRIFFIN Accelerator, provide a highly commercial perspective and financial assistance, targeting the early identification and development of investment-ready commercial opportunities.

Institutional Investors – Institutional investors, including Australian Renewable Energy Agency, venture investors and banks, provide equity and debt funding to finance early-stage growth opportunities and enable larger enterprises to deliver large-scale renewable energy projects.



RESEARCH, TRAINING AND INDUSTRY

SERREE Industry Cluster – The SERREE Industry Cluster provides the broader context for facilitating sector-wide networking and collaboration, bringing together and identifying core needs, challenges and potential solutions spanning renewable energy businesses, institutions, communities and other stakeholders in the ACT and south-east region of NSW.

Education, Research & Training – Education, research and training institutions play a key role: bridging local and global technical expertise; providing access to research facilities and problem solving capabilities; providing education, training and bidirectional secondment opportunities; supplying innovation; and supplying industry with new, highly qualified and skilled employees.

Business Community – The commercial sector, including large international corporations and particularly local emerging businesses, are at the core of the strategy; creating jobs and new ventures, developing skills, and diversifying and strengthening the ACT economy. The business community also provides industry input into the Renewable Energy Innovation Fund, helping the Fund to form a longer-term strategic vision and identify nearer-term industry-specific needs.

RENEWABLE ENERGY INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM STRUCTURE

**ACT GOVERNMENT'S
90% RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGET**

RENEWABLE ENERGY INNOVATION FUND

SERREE INDUSTRY CLUSTER

BUSINESS

EMERGING
VENTURES

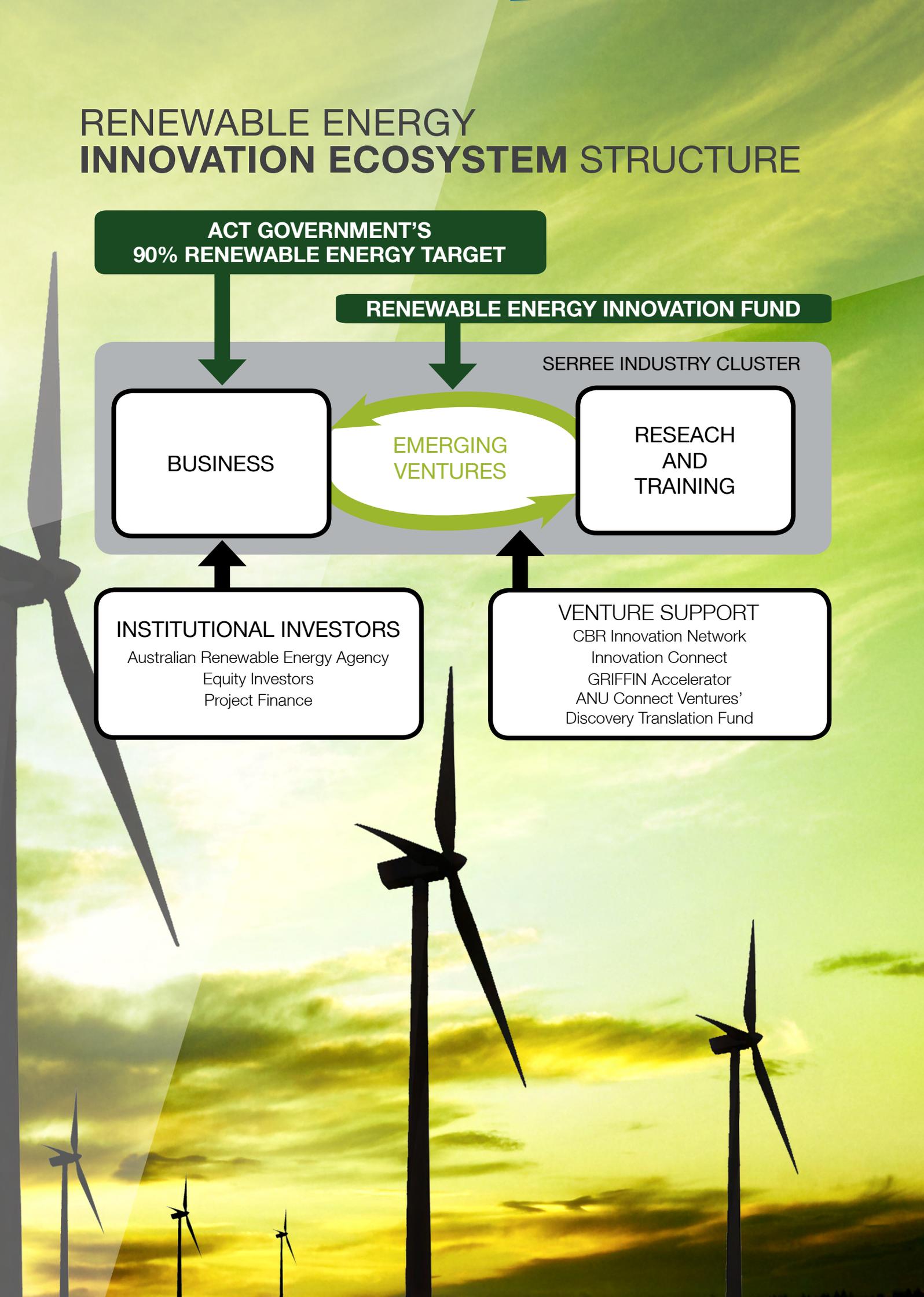
RESEACH
AND
TRAINING

INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS

Australian Renewable Energy Agency
Equity Investors
Project Finance

VENTURE SUPPORT

CBR Innovation Network
Innovation Connect
GRIFFIN Accelerator
ANU Connect Ventures'
Discovery Translation Fund



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The **ACT Government** will invest in renewable energy projects and implement the Renewable Energy Local Investment Framework.

As the local network operator, **ActewAGL Distribution** will support the integration of renewable energy and energy storage systems on the ACT distribution network, and provide input on market needs.

The **South East Region for Renewable Energy Excellence (SERREE)**, through its industry cluster initiative, provides the broader context for facilitating collaboration between industry, research and training, communities and government.

Universities and research institutes, such as the Australian National University's Energy Change Institute, will contribute to identifying a longer-term strategic vision of the energy industry, build productive research and education partnerships to create value for business, and build the innovation capacity of local researchers, educators and businesses.

Canberra Institute of Technology will grow as Australia's premier skills centre for renewable energy training, driven by industry needs and with a strong focus on attracting national and international students.

CBR Innovation Network provides business planning and commercial readiness services to new and emerging Canberra-based technology ventures.

Local business will help to inform near-term industry-specific market needs, and form research and collaboration partnerships to develop innovative, export-oriented products and services for market.

National and international businesses will collaborate with local researchers and businesses, inform near-term industry-specific market needs, and provide markets for innovative products and services.

Investors will partner with government and business to finance the development of new products and services with a national and international export market focus.

The **Australian Renewable Energy Agency's** mission is for a society that is increasingly powered by renewable energy. ARENA's two objectives are to improve the affordability and increase the use of renewable energy across Australia. It undertakes this by funding renewable energy projects, supporting research and development activities and supporting activities that capture and share knowledge.

RENEWABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Strategy	Actions by 2016
<p>Invest in large-scale renewables</p> <p>Continue to support investment in large-scale solar and wind power towards the full achievement of 90% renewable energy</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Start process to award up to 50 MW to solar energy developers under the government's next generation solar initiative. 2. Award up to 1 MW for community solar. 3. Progress further wind energy capacity releases building on the 200 MW wind auction process.
<p>Facilitate battery storage</p> <p>Facilitate local research and investment into battery storage as an important 'sunrise industry'</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Facilitate a national test facility for battery storage technologies in Canberra with trades training and tertiary research integration. 5. Work towards the integration of energy storage at (or associated with) a large-scale solar facility in the ACT. 6. Support the deployment of household-scale battery storage on the ACT distribution network.
<p>Facilitate research partnerships</p> <p>Facilitate productive partnerships between battery storage, solar and wind energy developers and local research, education and trades training institutions, building institutional recognition and capacity</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Driven by contributions under the Local Investment Framework and facilitated by SERREE's Industry Cluster Network, guide the development of a physical business-research precinct to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » identify market needs-based innovation opportunities and » foster informal collaboration and transfer of IP and tacit knowledge between large and small businesses and research organisations. 8. Facilitate at least two new internationally significant wind energy research partnerships. 9. Assess the feasibility of deploying 'test berth' infrastructure as a catalyst for new research/commercialisation partnerships around energy generation, energy storage and control technologies.
<p>Support small business innovation</p> <p>Leverage a range of funding sources to support innovation and growth of local small businesses which are able to address the needs of solar, wind and energy storage industries</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Ensure local small businesses are provided with the opportunity to tender for major work packages under all ACT reverse auction processes. 11. Guided by a longer-term strategic vision of the energy industry and informed by near-term industry-specific market needs, allocate a first round of contracts under the Renewable Energy Innovation Fund (funded at \$1.2 million over three years), focusing on technology innovation and start-ups. 12. Leverage Canberra Innovation Network, the GRIFFIN Accelerator, Innovation Connect grant scheme, ANU Connect Ventures' Discovery Transfer Fund, Invest Canberra, ACT regulatory authorities and Australian Renewable Energy Agency to support the commercial validation, development and funding of high-growth, knowledge-intensive companies.
<p>Promote CBR</p> <p>Promote Canberra as a renewable energy innovation and investment hub</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Ensure whole-of-government and partner alignment and promotion of Canberra as a nationally and internationally significant innovation and investment hub for renewables. 14. Use a dedicated social media channel (e.g. Twitter) to directly target relevant stakeholders about renewable energy news and events in the ACT.

More information

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