

The Hon Jim Chalmers
Treasurer
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher
Minister for Finance
PO Box 6100
Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Treasurer and Minister

I write in response to your request of 4 July 2025 to identify regulatory reform opportunities within the Net Zero Economy Authority (the Authority), and opportunities to support the Government's productivity agenda.

The Authority considers that transition to a net zero economy provides a one-time opportunity to transform Australia's economy and specific regions by building on existing capacity, and investing in new industries. As such, the Authority has lodged a submission with Treasury to help inform the discussion of the Economic Reform Roundtable (Roundtable). I have enclosed a copy of the submission.

Our submission highlights the key barriers to the transition that stakeholders have raised with the Authority. It then seeks to highlight how a rethink of government processes with respect to government investment, collaboration and regulatory settings will be required to realise the transition to a net zero.

The Authority has identified a number of tangible opportunities for consideration by the Roundtable, including:

- Revision the mandates of SIVs to enable maximum investment in the transition, with a weighting in the assessment criteria to encourage proposals in areas that are a priority for the transition.
- Clear differentiation of SIVs to ensure consistent funding throughout the project life cycle.
- Streamlining of the government funding system by standardising applicant requirements and using Artificial Intelligence (AI) were appropriate better assist stakeholders navigating the complex system
- Improved monitoring of the utilisation and effectiveness of Government programs in real time in transitioning regions to ensure they are delivering on the Government's policies.
- Development of an integrated national net zero infrastructure program incorporating known and proposed construction timelines across renewable sectors to allow better project sequencing reducing delay, overlaps and cost pressures.
- Facilitation of easier connections between suppliers and developers to accelerate projects and increase local content.

- Introduction of changes and exemptions to current regulatory and other approval processes to ensure timely approvals of projects which will help meet greenhouse gas emissions and transition objectives.
- Examination of circumstances where Government may wish to proactively assume responsibility for regulatory approvals, to minimise the time and risks associated with tendering for priority net zero projects.

The Authority believes these opportunities will help support productivity by facilitating investment in new and transitioning industries, better targeting government assistance and removing unnecessary red tape to reduce project costs.

I look forward to following the discussions and continuing to work with you to progress the Government's efforts to boost productivity as part of Australia's transition to net zero.

Yours sincerely



Dr Iain Ross
Chair
Net Zero Economy Authority

1 August 2025

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