

29 August 2014

Engineering peak body backs Renewable Energy Target

Following the release of the government's review of the Renewable Energy Target, peak professional body Engineers Australia has reiterated its support for maintaining the RET in its current form.

"Not only are there major environmental benefits to be had under RET, but there are significant employment and economic benefits to be gained from RET projects, especially in regional areas," said Chair of Engineers Australia's Sustainable Engineering Society, Dr Alice Howe.

"The RET is clearly delivering benefits for Australia, and Engineers Australia does not support moves to dilute or weaken its operation.

"Engineers are central players in delivering Australia's energy infrastructure, and we stand by the need to create a long-term and sustainable energy sector in this country. Ongoing investment in renewables is a critical component of our energy security mix.

"Heavy reliance on fossil fuels creates a major vulnerability in our economy. If significant global action on greenhouse gas reductions occurs, the consequences for Australian energy exports and even Australia goods and services, due to their high carbon footprints, may be severe.

"While we welcome strong public debate on this topic, we urge the government to stand by the RET in its current form. Engineers Australia believes that the RET should be retained to at least its present level," said Dr Howe.

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Media Contact:

Sara Ross | National Manager Public Affairs Engineers Australia

Email: sross@engineersaustralia.org.au | Phone: (02) 6270 6565 | Mobile: 0402 419 962

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