



23 September 2020

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

**SUBMISSION: Grid Reliability Fund Bill 2020**

Dear Sir/Madam,

After more than half a century of warnings about fossil fuels' catastrophic impacts on the world's climate and biodiversity and Australia's terrifying Inferno Summer, it's beyond comprehension that any further investments would be made in fossil fuel technologies.

Whilst additional funding for the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) to continue its excellent work driving down emissions in Australia, corruption is the only explanation for the Coalition's attempts to carbonise the agency now. Not only has the fossil fuel industry known of the grave dangers of its products since the 1970s, it has aggressively driven [campaigns to mislead and deceive on climate facts while promoting misinformation](#).<sup>1</sup>

Just like the gas industry stacked [National COVID-19 Commission](#)<sup>2</sup> (NCC), the Grid Reliability Fund Bill 2020 is an exercise in rewarding the Coalition's political donors; their 'mates'.

Meanwhile, [extensive research](#) shows that electrifying industries, manufacturing, homes and transport systems using renewable energy backed up by smart storage and distribution systems is the most efficient and cost effective path to quickly reducing greenhouse gas emissions while creating millions of safe and secure jobs in sectors and regions that need them most.

Australia could become an international hub for [zero emission manufacturing](#) as well as [renewable hydrogen](#) for export markets while again creating countless new safe and sustainable jobs in local economies.

Established under the Clean Energy Act (2011) and operating since 2012 with a \$10 billion investment fund provided in annual appropriations of \$2 billion per year for five years, CEFC projects on track to deliver lifetime emissions abatement of more than 260 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e.<sup>3</sup> In addition to this success, CEFC investments have delivered cumulative returns of 5.29 per cent.<sup>4</sup> Just imagine how much more could be achieved if the CEFC was to be properly financed to assist the clean energy sector realise its potential in Australia.

As we grapple with bushfires, droughts and a global pandemic, it's simply beyond craven that our Federal government is attempting to usher in changes to the CEFC that will make it easier for exploitative and extractive industries to further degrade our environment and our economy; to further threaten our future.

We urge you to do everything in your power to ensure the integrity of the CEFC so that it can continue its invaluable investments in genuinely clean and secure energy technologies.

With thanks for your time and consideration -

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David Robinson  
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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/exxon-knew-about-climate-change-almost-40-years-ago/>  
Shannon Hall, 'Exxon Knew about Climate Change almost forty years ago', *Scientific American*, 26 October 2015

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.pmc.gov.au/ncc>, NCC website

<sup>3</sup> [https://annualreport2019.cefc.com.au/media/1428/cefc\\_annual\\_report\\_2018-19.pdf](https://annualreport2019.cefc.com.au/media/1428/cefc_annual_report_2018-19.pdf), CEFC (2019) Annual Report

<sup>4</sup> *ib. id.*