



NSW Renewable Energy Sector Board

Second Report on Activities of the Board

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Cover image: Workers during set up at Moree Solar Farm. Moree, NSW. NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment/Neil Fenelon

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1. Introduction

The *Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020* (NSW) (the Act) requires the Minister for Energy and Environment to establish a board for the NSW renewable energy sector.

The Minister appointed the NSW Renewable Energy Sector Board in February 2021 for a three-year term.

This is the Board's second report on its activities, which the Board is required to provide to the Minister by 30 June 2021.

2. Change in NSW Renewable Energy Sector Board membership

The Minister has accepted the resignation of Mr Justin Page, the member representing the Electrical Trades Union, effective 30 May 2021.

The Minister has invited nominations to fill the Electrical Trades Union position as required under the Act. A panel will assess the nominations and make a recommendation for the Minister's consideration.

3. Outcomes of Sector Board meetings

The Board held two meetings in the period 1 April to 30 June 2021.

Second meeting: 14 April 2021

The Board held its second meeting on Wednesday, 14 April 2021. The agenda included:

- an update from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) on the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap
- a briefing on the Net Zero Emissions and Clean Energy Board, including its intersection with the Renewable Energy Sector Board
- an update on procurement activities to support development of the Board's plan
- a presentation on a strategic review of renewable energy supply chains.

The Board discussed:

- structure for the Board's website
- proposed key themes for the Board's plan.

Third meeting: 26 May 2021

The Board held its third meeting on Wednesday, 26 May 2021. The agenda included:

- a briefing from the Department on the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap
- a presentation from King & Wood Mallesons, trade lawyers commissioned to support development of the Board's plan
- a presentation from the Department of Regional New South Wales on its projects and programs designed to increase regional employment, skills and economic growth.

The Board discussed:

- the outline for its second report to the Minister due by 30 June 2021
- content for the Board's website
- next steps for the three specialist consultants engaged to provide input to the Sector Board's plan
- recommendation for a discussion paper to guide the development of the plan, and a proposed Reference Group to drive this.

The Board agreed to form a Reference Group to support development of its plan for the renewable energy sector. The Reference Group will provide expert advice to the Board and will include Board members, staff from their organisations, and representatives from relevant NSW Government agencies.

4. Advice to inform the Sector Board's plan

The Department has engaged the following consultancies to help inform the Board's plan for the renewable energy sector.

Supply chain analysis of the renewable energy sector

This project analyses the renewable energy supply chain in New South Wales, seeking to:

- identify supply chain constraints that might create issues for the delivery of the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap
- establish the current percentage of local content and opportunities to build on this.

MBB Group, a leading independent specialist consultancy providing strategy, commercial, transaction and delivery management services, will deliver this project.

Work health and safety study

This project will carry out a desktop review and targeted stakeholder engagement to:

- identify best-in-class work health and safety practices in the renewable energy supply chain
- establish the baseline of work health and safety practices across the sector
- recommend strategies to enhance work health and safety standards for electricity infrastructure constructed under the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap

This project will be conducted by MBB Group.

Renewable energy sector: baseline and opportunity study

This study will advise the Board on strategies to maximise local goods and services, employment and skills by:

- developing a baseline of the supply chain, employment and skills in the sector and each Renewable Energy Zone region
- identifying opportunities to maximise local content, employment and skills, and the barriers to realising these opportunities
- identifying actions and strategies for each region to increase local content, employment and skills.

The Institute of Sustainable Futures (ISF) will deliver this project in partnership with SGS Economics and Planning. ISF is a thought-leading research and consulting organisation within the University of Technology, Sydney and SGS is a leading public policy advisory firm.

Trade law advice

The Department has commissioned King & Wood Mallesons to help ensure the Board's plan is consistent with Australia's international trade law obligations.

The team from King & Wood Mallesons has significant expertise in international trade law, underpinned by comprehensive technical competence and practical, commercial experience.