

2008-2009

The Parliament of the  
Commonwealth of Australia

THE SENATE

**EXPOSURE DRAFT OF THE AUSTRALIAN GREENS  
OCTOBER 2009**

**Safe Climate (Renewable Energy  
Infrastructure Amendment) Bill 2009**

**No.     , 2009**

*(Senator Milne)*

**A Bill for an Act to amend the *Infrastructure  
Australia Act 2008* in relation to renewable energy,  
and for related purposes**



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1     **A Bill for an Act to amend the *Infrastructure***  
2     ***Australia Act 2008* in relation to renewable energy,**  
3     **and for related purposes**

4     The Parliament of Australia enacts:

5     **1 Short title**

6                     This Act may be cited as the *Safe Climate (Renewable Energy*  
7                     *Infrastructure Amendment) Act 2009*.

8     **2 Commencement**

9                     This Act commences on the day after it receives the Royal Assent.

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1     **3 Schedule(s)**

2                     Each Act that is specified in a Schedule to this Act is amended or  
3                     repealed as set out in the applicable items in the Schedule  
4                     concerned, and any other item in a Schedule to this Act has effect  
5                     according to its terms.

6     **4 Purpose of Act**

7                     The purpose of this Act is to assign to Infrastructure Australia the  
8                     following additional functions in relation to renewable energy  
9                     infrastructure:

- 10                    (a) to map renewable energy resource areas of Australia; and  
11                    (b) to provide communication and consultation links in relation  
12                    to mapped areas between all levels of government, local  
13                    communities and renewable energy developers; and  
14                    (c) to create renewable energy development zones based on  
15                    mapped areas, to facilitate streamlined approval processes  
16                    and to fund connection of zones to the electricity grid;  
17                    to encourage investment in renewable energy infrastructure.

1 **Schedule 1—Amendment of the Infrastructure**  
2 **Australia Act 2008**

3 **1 Section 3**

4 Insert:

5 *renewable energy infrastructure* means infrastructure in relation  
6 to the generation of renewable energy in which investment or  
7 further investment will produce increased generation of energy  
8 from renewable sources and reduced emissions of greenhouse  
9 gases by the energy sector.

10 **2 After section 5**

11 Insert:

12 **5A Additional functions—renewable energy infrastructure**

- 13 (1) Infrastructure Australia has the following functions in relation to  
14 renewable energy infrastructure:
- 15 (a) to map renewable energy resource areas of Australia; and
  - 16 (b) to provide communication and consultation links in relation  
17 to mapped areas between all levels of government, local  
18 communities and renewable energy developers; and
  - 19 (c) to create renewable energy development zones based on  
20 mapped areas, to facilitate streamlined approval processes  
21 and to fund connection of zones to the electricity grid.
- 22 (2) Subject to section 5B, Infrastructure Australia is to perform a  
23 function under subsection (1) as it thinks fit.
- 24 (3) Notwithstanding subsection 6(1), the Minister must not give any  
25 directions to Infrastructure Australia about the performance of its  
26 functions under this section.

27 **5B Independent expert advisory committee on renewable energy**

- 28 (1) The Minister must establish an independent expert advisory  
29 committee on renewable energy to provide advice under  
30 subsection (3) to Infrastructure Australia in relation to its functions  
31 under section 5A.

- 1 (2) The constitution, membership, appointment and other processes  
2 and procedures of the committee must be prescribed in the  
3 regulations.
- 4 (3) The committee must advise Infrastructure Australia in relation to  
5 the following matters:
- 6 (a) the competitiveness and reliability of existing and emerging  
7 renewable energy technologies; and
- 8 (b) the synergies between different technology types with respect  
9 to the reliability of renewable energy generation; and
- 10 (c) the potential of electricity demand management, “smart-grid”  
11 technology and emerging energy storage options to enhance  
12 the reliability of renewable energy generation; and
- 13 (d) the need and potential to expand and upgrade grid  
14 infrastructure; and
- 15 (e) the infrastructure required to achieve proposed renewable  
16 energy targets of 60%, 80% and 100% by 2030; and
- 17 (f) any other matters referred to the committee by Infrastructure  
18 Australia.
- 19 (4) After the committee has prepared the assessments required under  
20 paragraph (3)(e), the Minister must determine 2 of those proposed  
21 targets to be the subject of a detailed action plan under  
22 subsection (5).
- 23 (5) The committee must prepare a detailed action plan in relation to  
24 each of the 2 proposed targets determined by the Minister under  
25 subsection (4).
- 26 (6) The plans under subsection (5) must:
- 27 (a) set out how the selected targets could be achieved; and
- 28 (b) include mapping of the following matters:
- 29 (i) potential locations and concentrations of renewable  
30 energy generators, including wind, solar thermal,  
31 biomass, geothermal and wave power; and
- 32 (ii) where and how the grid (including high voltage DC  
33 lines) should be extended; and
- 34 (iii) any other matters that the committee considers relevant.
- 35 (7) The committee must provide the plans prepared under  
36 subsections (5) and (6) to Infrastructure Australia.

- 1           (8) Infrastructure Australia must publish on its website, without any  
2           alteration:  
3               (a) any advice provided to it under subsection (3); and  
4               (b) the plans provided to it under subsection (7).
- 5           (9) Infrastructure Australia must take into account:  
6               (a) any advice provided to it under subsection (3); and  
7               (b) the plans provided to it under subsection (7);  
8           to perform its functions under subsection 5A(1).