



CHRISTIANS for an ETHICAL SOCIETY

Working Group of Churches Together NSW - ACT
Associate Member of ACT Churches' Council Inc

President - Bishop George Browning

Mr Simon Corbell
Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

17 August 2014

Dear Minister,

We wish to congratulate your government on the practical and principled step that you are taking to expand access within the ACT community to the benefits of large-scale solar projects by means of the feed-in tariff scheme to encourage community solar projects.

As you pointed out in your media release of 28 February this year, there are many in the community who, so far, have missed out on the benefits of solar power. These include the many who are "renters and those living in flats and apartments."

We also commend you for requiring bidders to consult widely in the community. It is in this context that we are aware that the community group SolarShare, is submitting a bid under this scheme. We do not have the capacity to judge the relative merits of alternative bids but are aware that SolarShare has undertaken extensive community consultation over the last 3 1/2 years.

It evolved from and continues to have links to SEE-Change, a not-for-profit group that aims to inspire, inform and support action to reduce Canberra's ecological footprint.

Christians for an Ethical Society commends the commitment of the ACT government to take what measures it can to address climate change at the level of our community. The Society considers that it is a moral imperative for us all, whether governments, corporations or individuals, to do what we can to forestall the degradation of the world entrusted to us - a world that sustains us, and on which the well-being of our children and our children's children depends. Soundly based initiatives such as the community feed-in tariff scheme are valuable and important practical means of raising awareness and giving all ACT residents hope that meaningful action can be taken at local level.

Yours sincerely,

† George Browning

(George Browning)
CES Chair