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Contact: Rowan Mackenzie 5261 0553

1 Merrijig Drive
Torquay, Victoria

POST
PO Box 350, Torquay
Victoria 3228

PHONE
03 5261 0600

FAX
03 5261 0525

WEB
www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au

EMAIL
info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au

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Department of Energy and Earth Resources
By email: renewable.energy@ecodev.vic.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Victoria's Renewable Energy Roadmap Submission

The Surf Coast Shire Council is pleased with the Government's recent unveiling of its Renewable Energy Roadmap which commences a much needed community discussion on the future of renewable energy in Victoria. Council recently wrote to Premier Andrews requesting that such a discussion occur.

Council notes and supports:

- The overall objective of: *"Accelerating development of renewable energy generation in Victoria to reduce emissions, create jobs, and put downward pressure on energy prices"*.
- The four priority areas:
 1. Transformation in the wholesale electricity market toward renewable energy.
 2. Reducing barriers to continued development of distributed generation and energy storage.
 3. Encouraging household and community development of renewable generation, products and services.
 4. Government support for renewable energy development, with a focus on job creation in Victoria.
- Using the Government's electricity purchasing power to support the creation of hundreds of renewable energy jobs
- Ending unfair discrimination and improving access to the grid for solar customers
- Supporting clean energy jobs through the \$20 million New Energy Jobs Fund
- Public consultation on the Roadmap will feed into the development of a Renewable Energy Action Plan, which will set long-term actions to drive renewable energy investment in Victoria.

Council has found the Surf Coast community strongly supports renewable energy. Our Council Plan 2013 – 2017 includes a specific commitment to work with the community to reduce emissions and explore alternative energy opportunities. We have community groups currently working closely with Council to develop projects of their own. Council also worked successfully with community groups to secure federal Solar Towns grants for solar panels on two community recreation facilities. Council has also obtained solar panel feasibility assessments and completed energy efficiency audits for key Council facilities.

Council is encouraged to see leadership shown by the government in establishing a renewable energy target of no less than 20 per cent by 2020 and notes, as part of broad public consultation on the Roadmap, the Government is asking for community feedback on what the 2020 and 2025 targets should be. Compared to Victoria's current 12% generation from renewables, South Australia generates 36% of its energy from renewables and has updated its target to 50% of its energy from renewables by 2025 and the ACT has set a target of 90% by 2020.

The Surf Coast Shire Council would like to see Victoria achieve a target higher than 20% by 2020 and more consistent with the targets identified above by South Australia and ACT. Council is keen to explore how it can work with the Surf Coast community and collaborate with the state government to do this while also creating clean energy jobs of the future and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.

Council looks forward to take part in the public consultation process on this Roadmap and Action Plan as these further evolve and offers our assistance on this important opportunity.

Please contact our Manager Environment & Community Safety, Rowan Mackenzie on 5261 0553 or rmackenzie@surfcoast.vic.gov.au for further involvement.

Yours sincerely

Cr Eve Fisher
Acting Mayor