

DR MARISA PATERSON MLA SPEECH

3 Aug 2022

ECCB Report – Energy Innovation in the ACT

Start

I was pleased to be part of this Committee and to contribute to the report recommendations. I look forward to the ACT Government's implementation of those recommendations, in particular around commissioning innovative social science research and methodologies to understand how to transition sectors (ie – transport, and gas for cooking) or parts of the community that may have significant infrastructure and behaviour change barriers to reducing their emissions.

I will also closely follow the support which the Government may provide to the ACT Renewables Hub to ensure long term objectives and projects that focus on outcomes to address social, technological, environmental and labour market barriers and innovation to support ACT leadership in the renewable energy field.

Another key recommendation from the report is for the ACT Government to fund the ACT Renewables Hub to conduct future mapping of the ACT renewable ecosystem, with a goal of identifying gaps and growth areas.

The prioritisation and promotion of diversity and inclusion in the ACT's future renewable energy sector will also be important, and I look forward to innovative ways in which the Government may address this.

Opportunity for the ACT Government to deliver research and development programs and start-up grant schemes and funding to promote innovation and diversity in the renewable energy sector is another recommendation of which I'm pleased to have helped inform.

Madame Speaker, the ACT has real opportunity to be a world leader in the renewable energy sector. The inquiry highlighted that we already leading the way nationally. But we need to continue to keep at the forefront of evidence-based policy and technological advances.

Being recognised as a leader in renewable energy positions us to attract some of the best, most innovative and creative minds to live and work in Canberra.

I would like to thank all those people who contributed to the Inquiry and my colleagues – Ms Castley and Mr Braddock, who was on the committee at the start of the inquiry, and to Ms Clay who joined the committee for the report writing process.

Thank you.

Ends