



Media Release

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Regional network to drive renewables excellence

The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) today announced \$305,000 funding for a \$743,000 partnership to strengthen the South East Region of Renewable Energy Excellence (SERREE) initiative.

ARENA CEO Ivor Frischknecht joined Dorte Ekelund, Director-General of ACT Environment and Planning Directorate and Leslie Williams, NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Renewable Energy to launch the project in Canberra today.

Mr Frischknecht said SERREE would establish a Regional Renewable Energy Industry Cluster in the south east NSW-ACT region, forming a model that could be adopted by other regions.

“The ACT and NSW governments and key renewable energy industry stakeholders are partnering with ARENA to support SERREE to encourage collaboration and knowledge sharing across the south east region,” Mr Frischknecht said.

“It’s a valuable initiative that identifies renewable energy business opportunities, holds forums and provides resources to a growing membership.

“There is a wealth of renewable energy projects throughout south east NSW and the ACT, making it an ideal place to trial a regional approach to knowledge sharing and skills building.

“The expanding network will establish a best practice framework to encourage other regions to adopt a similar approach to excellence in renewables.”

Regional Development Australia ACT (RDA ACT) has led the SERREE initiative over the past three years, with the support of its funding partners.

Mr Frischknecht said SERREE has been very successful with engaging a broad range of stakeholders across business, industry, government and education providers.

“More than 450 network members have participated in the collaboration to date, ranging from government and research institutions through to international project development organisations,” Mr Frischknecht said.

“The ongoing development of SERREE very much complements ARENA’s role in driving knowledge sharing to accelerate the proliferation of renewable energy in Australia.

“It strongly supports ARENA’s priority of renewable energy industry development through skill and capacity building by fostering local industry links and opportunities.”

The project will continue across the next three years. In addition to ARENA support, it is receiving \$60,000 ACT Government funding and \$120,000 NSW Government funding.

About ARENA

ARENA was established by the Australian Government as an independent agency on 1 July 2012 to make renewable energy technologies more affordable and increase the amount of renewable energy used in Australia. ARENA invests in renewable energy projects, supports research and development activities, boosts job creation and industry development, and increases knowledge about renewable energy.

About Regional Development Australia ACT

Regional Development Australia (RDA) ACT is one of 55 RDA Committees that form a national network covering all of Australia. RDA Committee members are community leaders who bring their knowledge, expertise and networks together to enhance the development of Australia's regions. RDA ACT works with governments and the wider community to identify the unique opportunities and challenges of the ACT region, and facilitate the growth of the local economy.