

## ENGAGEMENT WITH OUR PORTFOLIO MINISTER

During 2017-18 the Minister responsible for ARENA was the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, Minister for the Environment and Energy.

### Ministerial approval

The Australian Government included safeguards in the ARENA Act to ensure that ARENA is transparent and accountable in its funding decisions.

Accordingly, the Portfolio Minister must approve ARENA's General Funding Strategy (GFS) and any guidelines for programs that could grant funding more than \$15 million for projects. The Minister must also approve individual projects where grants more than \$50 million are to be awarded.

### Ministerial requests and directions

The Minister made no requests of ARENA under section 11 of the ARENA Act during 2017-18. He issued one direction under section 13 of the Act, which was to work with the CEFC, in consultation with the Infrastructure and Project Financing Agency, to provide the Government with advice on a proposal by SolarReserve Australia to construct a concentrated solar thermal power plant at Port Augusta, South Australia.

The Minister also wrote to the Board to encourage ARENA to continue focusing on waste to energy projects, particularly those involving the avoidance of landfill, and to consider collaborating with the CEFC on such projects.

Under section 22 of the PGPA Act, ARENA must comply with Government Policy Orders (made by the Finance Minister) to the extent that they apply. No Government Policy Orders applied to ARENA during 2017-18.

### Reports to the Minister

ARENA kept the Minister informed about its operations during the year by providing updates on the Agency's progress towards meeting the objective of the ARENA Act. It also provided the Minister with reports of each ARENA Board meeting, including key deliberations, meeting outcomes and significant correspondence.

Following each Board meeting, the Chair provided the Minister with a report on the key outcomes of that meeting.

There were no significant issues reported to the Minister under paragraph 19(1)(e) of the PGPA Act that relates to non-compliance with the finance law in relation to ARENA.