

Beijing Jingneng Clean Energy (Australia) Holding Pty Ltd ACN 620 007 365 Correspondence Address: Level 21, 1 York Street Sydney, NSW 2000

The Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP Minister for the Environment and Energy PO Box 6022 House of Representatives Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

13/04/2018

Our Ref: BJCE\_MEE\_001

Dear Minister Freydenberg,

## Letter of Support - National Wind Farm Commissioner

Beijing Jingneng Clean Energy (Australia) Holding Pty Ltd (BJCE Australia) is the majority owner of the 165.5MW Gullen Range Wind Farm and the 10MW Gullen Solar Farm, both of which are located in the Southern Highlands of NSW. Gullen Range Wind Farm was BJCE Australia's first investment in Australia, occurring in 2014. Initially a silent investor, BJCE Australia's began actively managing this project in late 2015.

BJCE Australia aims to grow a substantial portfolio of renewable energy assets in Australia and has recently purchased 100% of the 31 turbine Biala Wind Farm, due to commence construction in October this year.

Since that time, BJCE Australia has been contacted by the National Wind Farm Commissioner (NWFC) regarding several queries from community members. The NWFC also attended a Community Consultative Committee meeting for the Gullen Range Wind Farm in late 2017.

BJCE Australia has found the NWFC to be a very useful resource. He and his office have acted as an independent facilitator between ourselves and community representatives, providing a point of escalation and assisting in the process of finding workable resolutions.

The NWFC role is important in educating community members and other stakeholders and clarifying what is fact and what is fiction in relation to wind energy. The NWFC is credible in this role due to his collaborative work with government and scientists as well as industry and community to build a strong understanding of wind energy.

The NWFC and the NWFC's annual report has been important in stimulating discussion about what is considered best practice in community engagement, and assisting the renewable energy industry in identifying areas where it might improve in this area.

BJCE Australia is supportive of the NWFC and the NWFC's office continuing beyond the initial period of three years.



As an owner of a solar farm and a wind farm asset, BJCE Australia believes there would be further value in extending the NWFC role to cover solar farms and other forms of renewable energy. Although there are some different issues involved in these other forms of renewable energy, there are also many commonalities.

If you have any questions regarding this submission, please contact myself on 0429 347 524 or <a href="mailto:derek.powell@jncec.com">derek.powell@jncec.com</a>.

Yours sincerely,

Derek Powell

Deputy General Manager

**BJCE** Australia