

Long overdue changes to Renewable Energy Target essential to clean energy future

Greenpeace Australia Pacific

Sydney, 26 February 2010: Climate Change Minister Penny Wong's back down in the face of mounting pressure to repair the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target is being welcomed by Greenpeace, and will breathe new life in Australia's clean energy industries.

"The Government's approach of trying to solve everything within the Renewable Energy Target turned it into a complex web of overlapping policies, crowding out space for many technologies it was supposed to support," Mr Vincent said.

"Inefficient policy had been hurting Australia's wind industry in particular. While the rest of the world boomed, Australia was one of the few countries where the annual market for new wind actually shrank in 2009.

"Greenpeace consistently argued for the distortions caused by overlapping policies be removed so a range of technologies can benefit from the scheme"

"We're relieved that the government has acted on these concerns," said Mr Vincent.

"These changes mean that people will still be able to install small-scale solutions around the home and at the same time a green light is being given to wind and other technologies."

Greenpeace supports the adoption of Feed-in Tariffs as a far more efficient and simpler way to support renewables and has re-stated its call for the government to introduce a gross national feed-in tariff for all renewable energy technology.

"By bringing in feed-in tariffs to support large-scale solar, geothermal and ocean energy, the whole suite of options will be getting support," Mr Vincent said.