

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**ACT Government response to Review of Community Solar feed in  
tariff capacity release**

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# ACT Government response to Review of Community Solar feed in tariff capacity release

The Review of Community Solar feed in tariff capacity release (the review) was undertaken as required under the *Electricity Feed-in (Large-scale Renewable Energy Generation) Act 2011*. The review was completed on 5 September 2019 and provides a background on how the community solar capacity release was structured, including the assessment process for bids, and assesses the appropriateness, value for money, efficiency and effectiveness of the community solar capacity release. The review was completed internally by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.

The review made three recommendations, and the ACT Government has accepted all three recommendations.

**Recommendation 1:** Operational data from the Solarshare project after its completion could be used to investigate the costs and benefits of community solar, should the ACT Government consider supporting another community solar project.

**Response:** Agreed. If such a release were to be considered, the Government agrees to undertake a review of the costs and benefits to the ACT of the Solarshare capacity release, and use this information in considering whether to proceed with such a capacity release, and the maximum feed-in tariff that the ACT Government would make available under the release.

**Recommendation 2:** For any future community energy projects, the ACT Government should consider ownership/payment structures that ensure ongoing ACT community ownership, such as using virtual net metering to deliver savings on investors' electricity bills.

**Response:** Agreed. If such a release were to be considered, the Government agrees to consider alternative ownership and payment structures, in order to determine if there is a structure that will safeguard ACT community ownership without providing barriers to entry.

**Recommendation 3:** The ACT Government should ensure that documentation for any request for proposals under the Act is as complete as possible, detailing the requirements on proponents, as well as the objectives of the scheme. When undertaking new and innovative projects, it will not always be possible to address all issues at the outset. If and when additional requirements need to be imposed, or additional information must be sought, the ACT Government should endeavour to explain the reason why the new requirement is necessary and unforeseen.

**Response:** Agreed.