



# Bega Valley Shire Council

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27 May 2013




The Chair  
Select Committee on Regional Development  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
Canberra ACT 2601

By email: [brian.lloyd@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:brian.lloyd@parliament.act.gov.au)

Dear Ms Berry

## Regional Development

	A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE
SUBMISSION NUMBER	15A
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Further to our presentation at the public hearing at the Assembly on 23 May 2013, further information is provided below on the matters raised in addition to our submission.

We emphasised that ACT should perhaps lift its horizon from a 1hr to a 2.5hr drive from Canberra to capture the leisure and freight travel market into the region.

We advised the prospect of significant growth in regional tourism brought about by the introduction of around 50 cruiseships a year into Eden Port, with over 2000 passengers and 1000 crew brought ashore for nature, adventure, recreation, cultural and other tours along the south coast and into the Snowy Mountains and ACT. The logistics of providing transport, packages, cafes, wineries, galleries and the like is likely to generate business opportunities.

We introduced the concept of establishing a renewable energy wholesale and infrastructure company owned by local government and ACT, on the back of the existing successful Southernphone telecommunications company that returns dividends to its shareholders - the local councils in the region. The concept of the renewable energy company is utilising the federal CEF grants available to local government to prepurchase renewable energy at wholesale, sell at retail, and reinvest the margins into renewable energy infrastructure in the region – and confirm the status of the region as the renewable energy hub.

We also suggested utilising the relative disadvantage of the region (eg low SEIFA rating) to its advantage in terms of lobbying for tax incentives when government and business deals with business in the region in a closed loop, to consolidate and grow regional enterprise. Our previous submission around mapping the natural and business resources available for use in the region refers.

For example, enterprise tax zone (EZ) programs provides tax incentives to encourage businesses to locate and expand in designated economically distressed areas of the state (high unemployment rate, low per capita income, and/or slower population growth rate).

Yours faithfully

Cr Bill Taylor

Mayor

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