

July 12, 2013

Comments from Australia on Approval by Mail: India : Rajasthan Renewable Energy Transmission Investment Program (ADB)

Dear Patricia

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project design.

Australia endorses this project and appreciates the work of the ADB and CIF AU in preparing relatively succinct documents.

We note CTF funding will support development of a transmission network to unlock the growing renewable energy (solar and wind) potential of the Rajasthan region, in line with India's focus on expanding renewable energy generation to meet growing energy demands. In addition to the transmission network's immediate need of evacuating electricity from the large-scale solar park, we look forward to seeing the benefits of this project in growing private sector investment in renewable energy in the region in future.

We would appreciate consideration of what fossil fuel potential exists in the Rajasthan region, and at what scale of investment could be undesirably incentivised by this transmission infrastructure. Indeed, it would be a perverse outcome if CTF funding was invested in a transmission line that generated greater fossil fuel investment than renewable energy investment.

We support the enhanced economic opportunities, particularly the community fund that will be established to direct funding towards improving the livelihoods of local communities. We understand this project is purposed for large-scale grid-connectivity of renewable energy, but we would appreciate consideration for what more could be done to increase reliable energy access for local communities along transmission routes. Changing the energy mix and displacing fossil fuels on the state and national grid is important, however, targeting interventions to benefit poor communities should also be considered.

Regards

John Anakotta

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