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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** Community Engagement Review  
**Subject:** Submission to the Community Engagement Review - from a parent and educator

Dear Inquiry Members,

As both an educator and a parent, I am deeply concerned about the legacy we are leaving for our children. It is disheartening to admit to my children that, despite our vast potential, we have not yet positioned ourselves as global leaders in renewable energy.

Why is this so crucial?

Our children, the future leaders, are inheriting the consequences of what we term the 'lost decade' of federal climate action. The structure of our federation and other factors have acted as barriers to the rapid expansion of renewables. Some communities even express apprehension about the construction of large-scale renewable projects, especially in regional areas.

For the sake of a safe climate and our economic prosperity, it is imperative that we swiftly transition to renewable energy, moving away from coal and gas, both for domestic use and exports. Such a transition, if well-executed, presents a golden opportunity. It allows us to combat climate change, regenerate nature, create sustainable economic opportunities, ensure reliable and affordable energy access, and stabilize energy prices. This ensures a future where both people and nature flourish.

However, it's essential that renewable projects gain community support, are environmentally friendly, and meet all environmental approvals. First Nations communities must always be consulted and give their informed consent for projects on their lands.

Regrettably, community engagement has often been mishandled. Many developers have overlooked local communities' rights, leading to projects that negatively impact these communities without giving them a voice or any benefits. This jeopardizes the social license needed for a swift energy transition.

Moreover, there's a well-funded movement against renewables, with some advocating for nuclear power over renewables. Such voices often exaggerate or misrepresent concerns about the environmental impact of renewable energy infrastructure, making community engagement even more challenging.

Thankfully, the ACF acknowledges the Federal Government's recognition of these issues and its willingness to consult with the Australian public.

Key Messages:

**Climate Action Requires Renewable Energy Infrastructure:** Our current grid was designed for coal, not renewables. Without new infrastructure, we can't transition to the renewables needed to replace coal and gas. As UN Secretary-General António Guterres stated, we need climate action on all fronts. We must act now to reduce emissions and keep global warming within 1.5 degrees.

**Benefits for All:** Transitioning correctly offers numerous benefits, including lower power prices, job creation, community renewal, and cleaner environments. First Nations' rights must be central to this transition, and renewable energy infrastructure can provide steady income for farmers. However, we must ensure that the transition is planned to minimize negative impacts on land and nature.

Role of Governments and Companies: Clean energy development must be just, equitable, and sustainable. Communities should be involved in the planning process, and both state and federal governments must ensure protections for people and nature during this transition.

Risks of Inaction are Dire: The most significant threat to our environment is catastrophic climate change. We are already lagging behind other countries in renewable energy and transmission infrastructure. We must act swiftly to meet our climate targets while ensuring the protection of both people and nature.

In conclusion, as we stand at this pivotal moment, I urge you to consider the future we are shaping for our children. Let's work together to ensure that they inherit a world that is sustainable, prosperous, and just.

Yours sincerely,

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