



Senator Ross Cadell

SHADOW MINISTER FOR WATER
SHADOW MINISTER FOR FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
SHADOW MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
NATIONALS SENATOR FOR NSW

Ms Clare Savage
Australian Energy Regulator
GPO Box 3131
Canberra ACT 2601

15 September 2025

Dear Ms Savage,

I recently met with Ausgrid and am writing to express my strong support for their Community Power Network sandbox proposal.

At a time when regional communities are already carrying a significant load of Australia's energy infrastructure, we must be smarter about where new solar generation is built. Too often, large-scale projects are pushed into regional landscapes, taking up prime agricultural land and creating unnecessary tension, when the real opportunity lies in our cities. Our metropolitan areas have thousands of hectares of untapped rooftop space, especially across warehouses, shopping centres and commercial buildings. That is where we should be focusing the next wave of solar build-out.

Ausgrid's proposal does exactly that. It proposes to unlock city rooftops and direct the benefits back into communities. If successful, this proposal could:

- Tap into the enormous solar potential of commercial and warehouse rooftops in metro areas
- Drive fairer feed-in tariffs for households
- Deliver annual dividends that are shared equitably across the community, including with those who cannot install solar or storage
- Strengthen network utilisation, creating long-term electricity cost reductions; and
- Shift more of the benefits of large-scale orchestration to end users, rather than large multinationals extracting profits.

I commend the Australian Energy Regulator for supporting innovative models like this through the sandbox mechanism. Protecting our regions while harnessing the full potential of metro rooftops is the smarter, fairer and more sustainable path forward.

Yours sincerely,

