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Engineers Australia concerned at Coalition clean energy cuts

In a follow-up to last week's federal budget reply, Engineers Australia's Sustainable Engineering Society has expressed concern that an incoming Coalition government would shut down the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC).

"The Sustainable Engineering Society exists to promote issues of relevance to the environmental engineering profession. Environmental engineers are involved with all aspects of the natural and built environment, and work to create practical engineering solutions to climate change," said Society Chair Lara Harland.

"With environmental engineers having such a central role in climate adaptation, the Sustainable Engineering Society is concerned that Coalition plans to axe the CEFC will undermine efforts to build a competitive low carbon economy.

"The Sustainable Engineering Society believes that proposals to implement low emission technologies are unlikely to proceed without the \$10billion seed investment funding that the CEFC framework could provide at a cost to the Government of less than \$400million.

"This move has the potential to destabilise and deter significant market based investment in technology and infrastructure in the power generation sector and threaten Australia's transition to a less carbon-dependent and more sustainable economy. The consequential loss of infrastructure development, innovation, manufacturing and construction capacity is a concern for all Engineers.

"Engineers Australia's Sustainable Engineering Society believes that the loss of the CEFC would destabilise clean-energy investment, severely limit new long-term projects and leave Australia's economy exposed to future emissions restraints in a carbon-constrained global market.

"Engineers Australia calls on the Coalition to reconsider its approach to clean energy technologies. We strongly support moves to invest in a low-carbon future, and we would welcome further dialogue on this issue which is clearly so critical to Australia's economic and environmental future," Ms Harland said.

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