



Australian Government

Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism

ENHANCING AUSTRALIA'S ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Australian Solar Institute



Australian Government

Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism




Energy Innovation Fund

- \$150 million Energy Innovation Fund announced in May 2008 Federal Budget
- Election Commitment
- \$100 million for Solar R&D
- \$50 million Clean Energy R&D
- Funding over 4 years to Jun 2012






Energy Innovation Fund

- **\$150 million over four years to support the development of clean energy technologies.**
 - **Objectives include:**
 - to restore and maintain Australia's world leadership in solar energy research and development;
 - to develop and advance Australia's research and development capabilities and intellectual properties in clean energy technologies.
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Australian Solar Institute

- \$100 million announced for research and development into solar thermal and solar photovoltaic technologies
 - Funding to be delivered through the Australian Solar Institute (ASI).
 - Minister for Resources and Energy launched the ASI on 15 January 2009.
 - ASI National Headquarters in Newcastle, NSW.
 - ASI will be a virtual institute – supported activities will take place in research institutions and companies around Australia.
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Objectives

- Advance and accelerate innovative concentrating solar thermal and solar PV technologies in Australia;
 - Drive research that will have a major impact on the efficiency and cost effectiveness of solar technologies and enhance their deployment;
 - Increase the competitiveness of solar technologies with other stationary energy generation;
 - Retain local and attract international expertise in solar energy research to Australia;
 - Make Australia a key player in the development of solar energy technologies in the Asia-Pacific region;
 - Support focused collaborative research in high priority solar technologies with the ultimate aim of identifying new technologies and lowering the cost of solar technologies in the market place;
 - Engage with government, industry and the community in promoting, developing and implementing solar technologies and solar R&D;
 - Provide a forum to discuss ideas and promote multidisciplinary research and institutional collaboration in relation to solar energy technologies;
 - Support the growth in skills and capacity in solar technologies for the domestic and international markets; and
 - Set in place arrangements leading to the sustainability of the ASI.
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Status

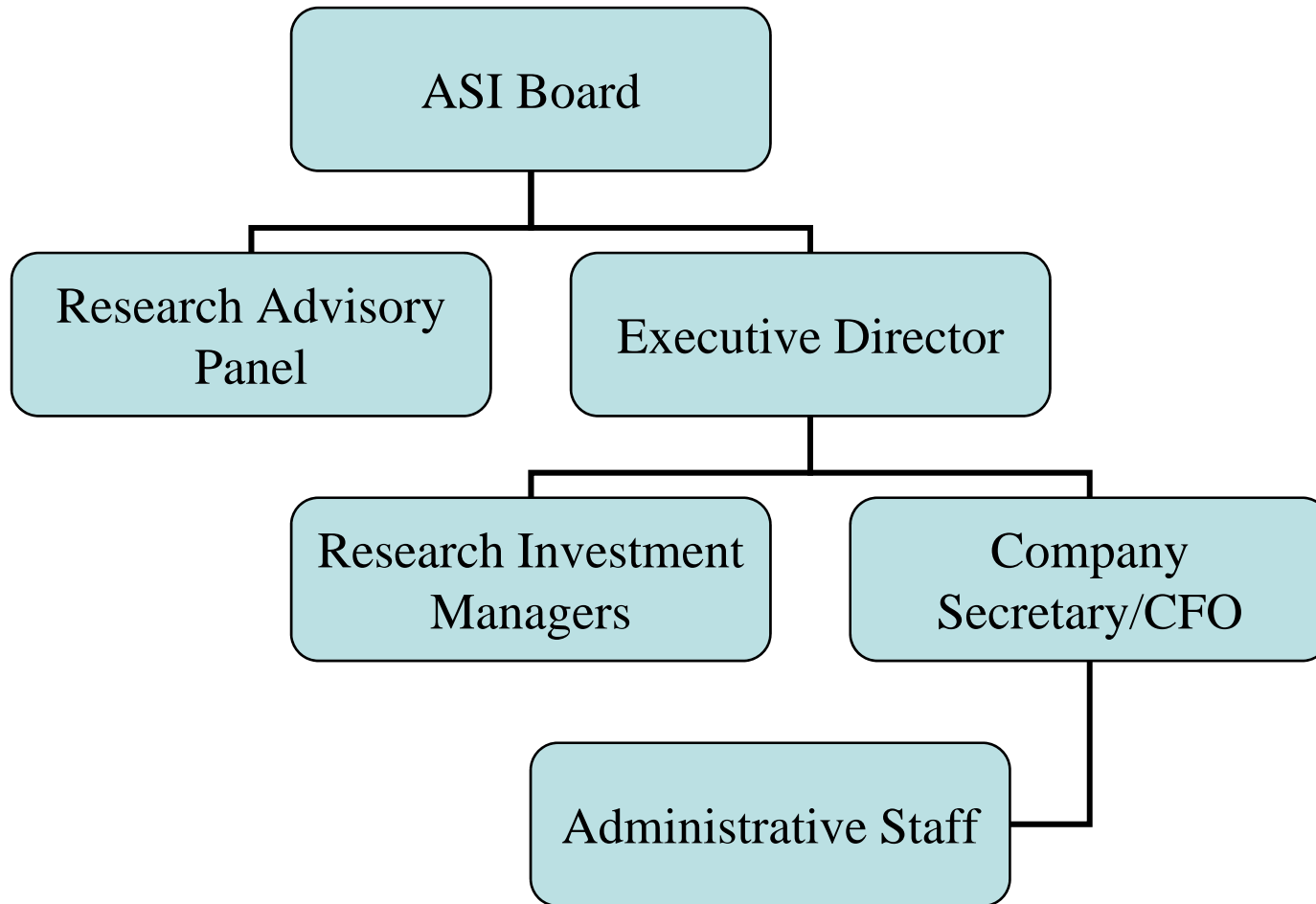
- 7-member Establishment Committee formed in January 2009
 - Includes representatives from industry, government and research institutions
 - Interim Executive Director appointed
 - Establishment Committee developing the legal, financial, administrative and governance framework for the ASI's future operations
 - 3 Foundation Projects announced
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Proposed Governance Arrangements


- Company limited by guarantee, subject to CAC Act
 - Part of RET portfolio
 - Commonwealth initially to be sole member
 - Provision for future members
 - Permanent Executive Director and 7-member Board of Directors to be appointed
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Proposed Structure






Proposed Activities

- Work program and strategic priorities being developed
 - Majority of research funds allocated through competitive grants program
 - Smaller proportion of funding set aside for core research projects
 - International outreach activities
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Next steps

- Appointment of ASI Board
 - Shortlist candidates for Executive Director
 - Finalise governance structure, constitution and funding arrangements with RET
 - Commence Foundation Projects
 - Finalise guidelines for research funding and first call for applications
 - Stakeholder Forum 11 May
 - ASI commences full operations 1 July 2009
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Thank you

Geoff Stone

General Manager, Energy Futures Branch

Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism

