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AFIA 2023 SCHOLARSHIP SHOWS PLENTI OF POTENTIAL

AFIA International Climate Change Scholarship Rewarding Knowledge and Innovation

Sydney, Australia [14 November 2023]

The Australian Finance Industry Association (AFIA) has announced Louis Edwards, the Head of Renewable Energy Finance at Plenti, as the winner of the prestigious *AFIA International Climate Change Scholarship*.

Announced at AFIA's annual gala dinner, The Affies, the award highlights the organisation's strategic commitment to nurturing leaders who will guide Australia's transition to a low-carbon economy.

Louis Edwards expressed his motivation, "I was compelled to pursue this scholarship due to the urgent and complex challenges climate change presents. At Plenti, I've seen the power of innovative financing for renewable energy. This scholarship is a chance to expand my impact by gaining a deeper, global understanding of the issues we face."

Edwards plans to leverage his new insights to enhance his climate change strategies, advocating for sustainable practices within the financial sector. "My aim is to foster product innovation, making renewable energy more accessible and affordable, driving change not only within Plenti but across the industry," he shared.

His aspirations include influencing policy and contributing to the widespread adoption of renewable technologies. "This scholarship is a stepping stone to becoming a more influential advocate for sustainability in finance," Edwards added.

Diane Tate, CEO of AFIA, elaborated on the importance of the scholarship, "We believe the finance industry is a key player in working with governments, businesses and communities in tackling the challenges associated with climate change. Our support for this scholarship is to cultivate leaders who can create sustainable financial products, services and technologies, driving strategies, research and innovation in line with environmental sustainability."

Addressing the international aspect of the scholarship, Tate highlighted, "Climate change is a global challenge that requires cross-jurisdictional collaboration and coordination. This scholarship offers a platform for sharing international best practices and staying ahead of global financial trends."

The AFIA scholarship provides an intensive course at the London School of Economics and Political Science, addressing the political, economic, and governance aspects of climate change, aiming to shape future leaders in finance ready to tackle the world's pressing environmental issues.

Applications for the scholarship were exceptionally strong, meeting strict criteria that ensured only candidates with a demonstrated deep commitment to sustainability and a significant strategic influence within their organisations were selected.



Images, from L to R: AFIA International Climate Change Scholarship winner Louis Edwards, Head of Renewable Energy Finance Plenti; Edwards receiving his award from AFIA CEO Diane Tate at The Affies awards ceremony in Barangaroo.

For more information or to schedule an interview, please email: media@afia.asn.au

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ABOUT AFIA

AFIA is the only peak body representing the entire finance industry in Australia. We represent over 150 members, including bank and non-bank lenders, finance companies, fintechs, providers of vehicle and equipment finance, car rental and fleet providers, and service providers in the finance industry. We are the voice for advancing a world-class finance industry and our members are at the forefront of innovation in consumer and business finance in Australia. Our members finance Australia's future. We collaborate with our members, governments, regulators and customer representatives to promote competition and innovation, deliver better customer outcomes and create a resilient, inclusive and sustainable future. We provide new policy, data and insights to support our advocacy in building a more prosperous Australia.