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Dr Alan Finkel AO
Australia's Chief Scientist
Chairman
Australia's National Energy Market Review
GPO Box 9839
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Dr Finkel

For many years we at CNI have been concerned at Australia's evolving energy policy and the detrimental effects which flow from the policy.

The move to set a Renewable Energy Target (RET) was not done in the national interest but to gain electoral advantage at that time. This has been followed by the setting of emissions reduction targets, Direct Action Plans and the establishment of costly non productive "Climate Bodies".

The result is that "Australia has moved from one of the lowest-cost electricity nations to one of the highest cost to the detriment of Australian industry and economic growth." as stated recently by Queensland Government owned Stanwell Corporation. (The Australian, October 18, 2016)

Despite this fact, States and Territories continue to rush headlong into pursuing higher RETs which will surely result in further increases in energy costs and further decreases in energy reliability. The consequence will be more manufacturing jobs will be "exported offshore to all those countries who are more interested in growing the economy and providing electricity than they are in saving the world." (Former Queensland Labor Treasurer, Keith DeLacy, The Australian October 18, 2016)

We understand from media releases that your review will focus on Australia's energy reliability. It is important, therefore, to recognize that emission reduction targets, which are a driver behind investment in renewable energy, are misplaced and will not affect the Earth's temperature and thus 'save the world.'

We commend to you the enclosed CNI "FACT SHEET – CARBON DIOXIDE (CO2)" which makes it abundantly clear that CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions are irrelevant to the temperature of the Earth. The level of CO2 in the Earth's atmosphere however, is critical to plant life, animal and human life on Earth.

Coal fired power stations, using clean coal technology, do emit CO2. They also provide cheap energy and most importantly, reliable energy.



Having regard to the above, Australia should revert to clean coal technology and discontinue any Government support for renewable energy and thus discontinue pursuit of RETs.

Government should encourage the private sector to engage in research and development of renewables and other forms of energy, including nuclear, so that when, eventually, coal and gas reserves are fully exhausted, there will be alternative sources of energy to replace these. If the research and development succeeds in developing an alternative energy source, at a cheaper cost than clean coal and gas then of course it should and would replace these.

In the national interest CNI RECOMMENDS:

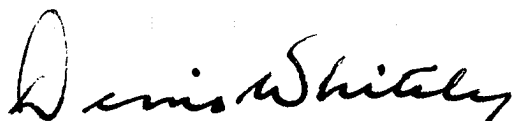
1. that the national and State RETS be abandoned;
2. that no further taxpayers money be invested in renewable energy programs at national or State level;
3. that energy reliability be restored and guaranteed by reverting to clean coal technology coal fired power stations and encouraging development of these to cater for future demand;
4. that as a consequence of the above:
 - (i) the various "climate bodies" and ancillary features such as generation certificates be phased out saving the nation billions of dollars and
 - (ii) the Federal Government, at the review of the emission reduction target (26 – 28%) scheduled for 2017 abandons the emission reduction targets.

These recommendations are the logical course to pursue in the light of the facts about CO2 and global warming or climate change. Moreover, these recommendations are a direct response to the "War on Coal" – the "Radical green strategy to sabotage Australian coal-mines, railways and ports." (For further reading refer www.NewsWeekly.com.au)

If the war on coal is won then the need to lift millions from poverty in lesser developed nations will be thwarted and millions of undernourished children, in those nations, will die of starvation

In Australia's national interest and the global interest, Australia must continue to develop its coal industry as a priority above renewable energy programs.

Sincerely



Denis J Whitely
Executive Director