



**THE HON PETER DUTTON MP
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**

Mr Denis Whitely
Executive Director
Council for the National Interest
PO Box 653
BELMONT WA 6984

Dear Mr Whitely

Thank you for your letter to me on 17 August 2022 about the many policy proposals that the Council for the National Interest (CNI) supports, particularly around education.

As you are aware, on becoming Leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party, I said we must have a broader discussion in this country about what is being taught in our classrooms and university lecture halls. There is rightfully some concern from parents that activists and unions are diverting attention away from what should be the core business of our education system – teaching students.

The Coalition has a strong belief in parents having choice, which is why a lot of parents are making decisions about sending their children to schools that reflect their own values.

At the same time education outcomes are declining in our country, and a recent report in the Australian Financial Review showed more parents are moving their children out of the public system in 15 years. The value-for-money and what curriculum taxpayers are contributing towards must be examined. We want the necessary resources and the best teachers in our classrooms, setting our children up for the future.

In the tertiary sector, our Shadow Minister for Education, Hon Alan Tudge MP has been putting universities on notice for delivering insufficient lectures and classes, which is in part contributing to poor satisfaction ratings among students. We will be keeping the pressure up on the Government to ensure all young Australians have the best education experience, whether they choose to study on-campus or online.

Thank you for passing on your thoughts in relation to emissions reduction. As we review our climate and energy policies, we will be focussing on strengthening Australia's energy security, reducing power prices for families and businesses, and looking at how we can sensibly bring down our emissions through new and emerging technologies, like nuclear. It's against the law currently to consider nuclear energy. This is an absurdity in this day and age.

The current energy crisis has shown the importance of getting more dispatchable power into the grid. If we are serious about reducing emissions, while at the same time

maintaining a strong economy and protecting our traditional industries, all technologies need to be on the table. I acknowledge and understand why you would like to see coal-fired power stations continue in that mix.

Thank you for your further comments and suggestions. I'll keep your thoughts in mind when it comes to meeting with my Shadow Cabinet colleagues and please don't hesitate to contact me again in the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Dutton', written in a cursive style.

07/09/22

PETER DUTTON

cc: Shadow Minister for Education, Hon Alan Tudge MP