Council For The National Interest

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15the February 2017



The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP Prime Minister of Australia Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

Your strong support for 'clean coal technology' coal fired power stations in Australia as reported, widely, in the media could be described as perhaps the strongest salvo fired, in recent times, against the 'war on coal'. We, at CNI, commend you for this.

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Rightly, you have also criticized renewable energy targets (RET), being pursued by some States and Territories, as contributing to high energy costs and weakened energy security. It is, in our view, disingenuous, to not include the Federal RET in this criticism as this contributes to the same energy cost increases and energy security problems. It is only a matter of the degree of damage.

The cost to taxpayers of these RET, as reported in The Australian Newspaper, is \$3billion a year and rising and there are other major costs related to the various climate bodies and clean energy initiatives. "Bill to prop up green power hits \$3bn a year", The Australian, February 6, 2017. These costly programs were given impetus by the decisions and commitments made at the December 2015 meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

As you know the UNFCCC is informed by the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) an organization which has a dubious record – remember 'climategate' 2009 and seven or eight other occasions where the IPCC simply behaved dishonestly to enhance their 'global warming' claims. Now, highly credible reports reveal that the IPCC provided misleading data to the December 2015 meeting, to debunk the warming hiatus. "Politics and climate science make for a toxic combination" Matt Ridley page 10 and "Misleading data' used to debunk warming hiatus: top scientist" Graham Lloyd, page 3, The Australian Newspaper February 7, 2017.

This latest evidence of IPCC dishonesty provides a rock solid basis for Australia to withdraw from the commitments made at the UNFCCC December 2015 meeting in Paris. The other rock solid reason for Australia to abandon its emissions reduction target is contained in the CNI FACT SHEET – CARBON DIOXIDE (CO2) enclosed. This proves that CO2 is not a pollutant, CO2 does not warm the Earth, CO2 is necessary for life on Earth, coal fired power stations, using Clean Coal Technology, do provide cheap energy and do release CO2 into the atmosphere.

You have made much of "ultra-supercritical technology", I believe, largely because these high efficiency, low emissions (HELE) coal fired plants would reduce energy costs and also reduce Australia's emissions of CO2 into the atmosphere of the Earth.

With respect, Prime Minister, the Fact Sheet, enclosed, demonstrates that CO2 is not the problem but is beneficial to the Planet; the more CO2 the better for the Planet.

The concept of a Clean Energy Target (CET), which became the RET, was introduced by the Howard Government in 1997 for political gain not economic gain. There is no rational economic basis for the RET.

What is required is for Australia to scrap it's RET and to find a way to put pressure on the States and Territories to scrap their RET; to scrap all of the climate change and related energy bodies; to stop the closure of coal mines and coal fired power stations; to support any coal fired power station, not currently using clean coal technology, to upgrade to clean coal technology using "scrubbers" rather than HELE technology. Scrubbers are effective, are less costly and thus more economical and more beneficial to the Planet as they release more CO2; in a legal and properly moral way phase out all renewable energy subsidies both industrial and domestic; having regard to the misleading data, used to inform the December 2015 Paris meeting, cancel Australia's remaining commitment to the UN Green Climate Fund.

This phasing out process must be done with appropriate sensitivity to minimize collateral effects for the organizations and people involved.

The savings for Australia will amount to billions of dollars each year.

In other words start again! Let renewable energy develop in its own time without taxpayer support. Through research and development, at its own cost, over time the renewable energy industry will find a sustainable role.

CNI welcomes the establishment of a Cabinet Sub-Committee to address this massive problem. A copy of this letter will be sent to each of the Sub-Committee members and to your newly appointed Climate and Energy Adviser.

Australia must reduce its energy costs to become a low cost producer again and must regain its energy security or the consequences will be dire!

Our members will welcome your response, please.

Denis J Whitely Executive Director