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Mr Innes Willox
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Industry Group
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Dear Mr Willox

Upon reading the article "CEOs ready to be stung again on energy costs" The Australian January 12, 2017, I am prompted to again express our concern at the state of the energy market in Australia. Australia is now one of the highest energy cost countries whereas just a few years ago it was one of the lowest energy cost countries. Energy security, moreover, is under serious threat.

The result is that Australia's industries are becoming uncompetitive and manufacturing jobs are being exported to other lower energy cost countries and all businesses and families, particularly low income families, are suffering higher costs. Without dramatic policy change it will only get worse.

It is indisputable that the increased energy costs and uncertain energy security are very largely the result of the headlong rush into renewable energy to meet unrealistic Federal and State renewable energy targets (RETS). There is no rational economic ground for Australia to pursue a RET which was a political tactic by the Howard Government at the time. The RET has become intrinsically linked with the Government's emissions reduction commitment which, in turn, supports the 'War on Coal' for the reason that coal fired power stations emit CO₂ and it is claimed, falsely, that CO₂ is a cause of global warming.

The enclosed CNI FACT SHEET – CARBON DIOXIDE (CO₂) demonstrates irrefutably that CO₂ does not cause global warming and CO₂ is necessary for plant, animal and human life on Earth and thus, any successful attempt to reduce emissions of CO₂, into the atmosphere, will simply reduce the abundance of plant, animal and human life on Earth and will be irrelevant to the temperature of the Earth. It is thus, incontrovertible, that it is not in the national interest or the global interest for Australia or any nation to pursue such emissions reduction targets as agreed at the December 2015 Paris meeting of the UNFCCC.

It is not in the national interest for Australia to continue to pursue Renewable Energy Targets or for Government to subsidize the renewable energy industry in Australia. Renewable energy will have an appropriate role to play when, through its own research and development, it can achieve economically cost effective and secure energy without relying on taxpayer subsidies.

Clean Coal Technology, in a variety of forms, has been in use for some thirty years. (Welch, Charles "Clean Coal Technology: Cleaning up Coal," Earthly Issue 13/01/2009") One form, "ultra-supercritical technology" is used in various countries. This high-efficiency, low-emissions (HELE) coal technology is favoured because not only does it produce secure, cheap, clean coal fired energy it reduces the amount of CO₂ emitted.

A better, more cost effective solution is to simply use "scrubbers" to remove sulphur, mercury and arsenic and allow the CO₂ to escape into the atmosphere. Besides being less costly this technology increases, more rapidly, the level of CO₂ in the atmosphere which will result in more abundant plant and animal life across the planet. The benefits to Australia will be secure low cost energy and importantly, more productive grain, grazing, horticultural and fruit production over the years ahead.

The Australian political elites display no willingness to scrap the misguided and pointless policies of RETs, emissions reduction and closure of coal fired power stations. The inexorable increases in energy costs and the lack of energy security will be devastating. Obviously, the only way that these rising costs can be halted and reversed is for somebody to mount a nation-wide grass roots campaign the nation to **demand** that the Federal, State and Territory Governments:

Scrap all Renewable Energy Targets

Scrap the emissions reduction target and scrap the commitment of \$200million per annum to the United Nations Climate Fund

Scrap the Government's Direct Action Plan and all initiatives designed to reduce CO₂ in the Earth's atmosphere

Close down all the Climate related bodies

Stop the closure of coal fired power stations and encourage the reopening of those already closed. Where any of these currently, do not use clean coal technology then provide incentives to upgrade these with "scrubbers" technology to extract sulphur, mercury and arsenic and allow CO₂ into the atmosphere

Lift the bans on new gas exploration and development.

Mobilizing the nation in this way could be achieved by the Australian Industry Group, the Business Council, the Minerals Council, the Chambers of Commerce and Manufacturing, the Farmers Federations and all similar organizations joining together and mounting a nation-wide campaign to achieve this goal.

Australia would become energy competitive, energy secure and billions of dollars would be saved from the Federal, State and Territory budgets. Importantly, the whole world would benefit from the increased growth in plant and animal life.

A good starting point would be for you to inform the 285 Chief Executives, you surveyed by providing them with a copy of the CO₂ FACT SHEET.

Intended action by President Trump to revoke the US commitment to emissions reduction will embolden other countries to do likewise. Australia must get in first. **Australia must regain energy competitiveness and energy security.**

We will send a copy of this letter and the FACT SHEET to as many of the other organizations mentioned as we can and we encourage you to pursue contact with and to work with these to rescue Australia from impending serious economic decline.

We look forward to your favourable response.

Sincerely

Denis J Whitely

Denis J Whitely
Executive Director