

# Council For The National Interest

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31 August 2019



Mr Peter J Coleman  
Chief Executive Officer  
Woodside Petroleum Ltd  
11 Mount Street  
PERTH WA 6000

*Dear Mr Coleman*

When Dr Hatton, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Authority, announced the EPA recommendation that all big new resource projects would have to completely offset the carbon dioxide emissions of the project, we noted the comments attributed to you in The West Australian, March 8, 2019. We thoroughly supported those comments and protested against the EPA recommendations.

We now note from The West Australian, August 29, 2019, a McGowan Government plan "to work with business towards an "aspiration" of net zero carbon emissions for WA by 2050". Energy Minister, Bill Johnston is quoted as saying "The State's aspiration is economically and environmentally responsible".

Whilst we can understand that industry would welcome the degree of 'certainty' which this statement would bring to major resource investments, the "aspiration" is not underpinned by scientific fact and if achieved will damage the environment NOT improve it.

You will no doubt be aware that Dr Hatton, after withdrawing the recommendation, referred to above, promised a "dinkum" public consultation on this issue and sought public submissions, closing on 2 September, 2019.

We enclose CNI Submission, dated 12 August, 2019, which recommended that the EPA should be closed down and its responsibilities should be taken over by the appropriate Minister. The objective is to save taxpayers' money and streamline environmental approval processes for the benefit of industry and the State.

Importantly, our Submission, page 2, details the FACTS about Carbon Dioxide (CO2). These facts clearly show that CO2 does not warm the Earth, CO2 is necessary for plant, animal and human life on Earth – the more CO2 in the atmosphere the more abundant will be life on Earth. That is why an aspiration of "net zero carbon emissions" by 2050 is foolish.

The facts about CO2, as detailed in our submission, have never been refuted by any scientist and that includes Australia's current Chief Scientist and his predecessor both of whom have been invited to comment on these facts but both did not do so.

CNI has lobbied scientists, academics and State and Federal politicians with these CO2 facts without any positive response. The politicians simply do not respond other than to

maintain that Australia has an obligation to meet the Paris Agreement commitment. It is quite farcical for the Government to pursue this commitment, the effect of which is driving energy prices so high as to seriously damage Australia's international competitiveness forcing businesses to close down or move offshore whilst, at the same time, only 17 of the 185 countries that ratified their Paris Agreement commitments are meeting their commitments and they are doing so, mainly, because they committed so little. India and China have made no commitment and USA has withdrawn. Furthermore, Australia's Chief Scientist, Dr Alan Finkel, is on record as saying at a Senate Committee Hearing that if Australia's emissions, being 1.3% of global emissions, were eliminated, it would make virtually no difference to the Earth's temperature.


Contrast the stupidity of Australia's emissions reduction Paris Agreement with Australia's failure to meet its obligation under the International Energy Program (IEP Treaty) for Australia to hold oil stocks equivalent to at least 90 days of the previous year's average daily net oil imports. Australia's oil stocks are so low that Australia would grind to a halt in about one week if our fuel imports were stopped, something that becomes more possible in the increasing geo political security tensions in the Indo-Pacific region.

Clearly, in relation to CO2 emissions, the Australian Government is not prepared to act responsibly and withdraw from the Paris Agreement. We urge you to work with other resources companies and the wide section of industry disadvantaged by the emissions reduction commitment and pressure the Government to withdraw from the Paris Agreement and to abandon the renewable energy targets (RET) both Federal and State and phase out all of the costly climate and energy bodies and the carbon credits. Some of the savings of \$3bn plus annually could be used to support the establishment of new clean coal technology coal fired power stations to drive down electricity prices and guarantee cheap, clean, secure and reliable energy in Australia.

Today, wind and solar energy deliver 1 per cent of global energy. The International Energy Agency estimates that even by 2040 wind and solar will deliver little more than 4 per cent and that when adjusting for the unreliability of solar and wind, existing coal will be cheaper than new solar and wind everywhere at least until 2040. Australia's emissions reductions commitment is totally pointless.

Further information which supports our argument set out above can be found in Stop the Climate Stupidity by David Archibald, 29 January 2019 – just Google Stop the Climate Stupidity | The Wentworth Report.

I am happy to discuss any aspect of this letter and the CNI Submission, enclosed with you or anyone you nominate. I look forward to your response.

*Sincerely*  
  
Denis J Whitely – Executive Director