

# Council For The National Interest

PO Box 653, Belmont WA 6984

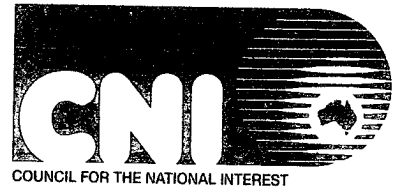
0418 742 701

0430 147 049

admin@cniwa.com.au

www.cniwa.com.au

ABN 43 775 878 315



26<sup>th</sup> August 2016

Hon Dr Mike D Nahan BEc, MS, PhD, MLA  
Treasurer; Minister for Energy; Citizenship  
and Multicultural Interests  
13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Dumas House  
2 Havelock Street  
WEST PERTH WA 2005

*Dear Treasurer & Minister*

On the assumption that the article "Green-power surge for WA" The West Australian, August 22, 2016 is accurate, we write to express our grave concern at the adverse consequences, which will flow from the reported plans to double the amount of renewable energy in Western Australia.

Overseas, many countries have been destroying their economies as a result of plunging into solar and wind power. It is reported that electricity prices in Germany, Spain and the UK increased by 78 per cent, 111 per cent and 133 per cent, respectively, between 2005 and 2014. A number of other countries and also, some States in the USA have had similar experiences. Germany and Britain are reverting to low cost coal fired power generation using clean coal technology.

In Australia, South Australia is a classic example of the disaster flowing from a headlong rush into unreliable renewable energy – closure of the low-cost black coal mine at Leigh Creek with the loss of hundreds of coal mine jobs and leading to the closure of the coal fired power stations at Port Augusta. The result is South Australia cannot generate enough electricity to meet the State's needs leading to a meteoric rise in electricity costs as it purchases electricity from coal fired power stations in Victoria..

If your Government proceeds with a plan to double renewable energy then, Western Australian businesses, industry and everyday domestic users will suffer dramatic increases in energy costs at a time when industry, particularly, must achieve lowest possible energy cost.

It seems that Eighteenth Century philosopher, G W F Hegel, was correct when he wrote "We learn from history that we do not learn from history."

We enclose for your information a copy of our letter, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2015, addressed to the Prime Minister, Hon Malcolm Turnbull together with FACT SHEET – CARBON DIOXIDE (CO<sub>2</sub>). Significantly, the Prime Minister did not respond to our letter leading to the reasonable conclusion that he chose not to try to refute the irrefutable.

We say, irrefutable, because no scientist to whom we have sent this Fact Sheet has refuted it and that includes Australia's former Chief Scientist, Professor Ian Chubb.

We feel confident that when you study these enclosures you will recognize the folly of Australia's (and the World's) latest emissions reductions commitment, agreed at UNFCCC Paris, in December 2015.

It is this emissions reduction commitment that has led to the setting of a revised renewable energy target.

In our view, it is the responsibility of the Western Australian Government to pursue policies which achieve the lowest cost energy for all users in our State. This means not spending taxpayers' money on renewable energy projects but ensuring that Collie coal fired energy is produced as cheaply as possible using clean coal technology.

We appreciate that the State has obligations to the Federal Government following the December Paris Agreement by Australia to commit to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 26-28 per cent by 2030. This commitment is to be reviewed in 2017.

There is, therefore, in the light of the facts set out in our attached letter and Fact Sheet, an opportunity for the Western Australia Government to convince the Federal Government to withdraw from the emissions reductions commitment. The consequence of doing so, would be for the Federal Government to abandon its Direct Action Plan and discontinue most of the climate related bodies and save billions of dollars over the medium term.

To do this of course will take enormous courage. Based on our knowledge of your record in both the private sector and in politics we have no doubt that you have that level of courage and integrity. We urge you and your Government to take up the challenge. To do so will be in the State's interest, the national interest and will be electorally attractive. CNI will support you, publicly.

We look forward to your favourable response.

*Sincerely*

*Denis J Whitely*

Denis J Whitely  
Executive Director