

4 November 2013



ENGINEERS
AUSTRALIA

Carbon Tax Repeal Submissions
Carbon Tax Repeal Taskforce
Department of the Environment
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

repeal-submissions@environment.gov.au

– BY EMAIL –

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Submission – Consultation Draft Clean Energy Future Repeal Bills 2013

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Consultation Draft of Bills to repeal the Clean Energy Future legislation.

Engineers Australia is the national forum for the advancement of engineering and the professional development of our members. With over 106,000 members embracing all engineering disciplines, Engineers Australia is the largest and most diverse professional body for engineers in Australia.

Engineers Australia believes that Australia must act swiftly and proactively in line with global expectations to address climate change as an economic, social and environmental risk. Our role has been, and will continue to be, in leading capacity building to innovate for more sustainable, eco-efficient and less polluting outcomes in engineering practice.

Our organisation believes that addressing the costs of atmospheric greenhouse gas emissions through a price on carbon will increase our competitive advantage by minimising risks and creating new economic opportunities. On this basis, Engineers Australia does not support repeal of the Clean Energy Future legislation, as currently proposed by the Australian Government.

Engineers Australia:

- Supports the Australian Government's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol and supports the formulation of a further international agreement.
- Strongly encourages the direction of energy policy reform, recognising that there is some way to go before achieving the stated policy objectives of: providing efficient, reliable and competitively priced energy; responsibly developing Australia's energy resources, technology and expertise; and mitigating environmental effects of energy production, transformation, supply and use.
- Strongly encourages actions to address the ongoing growth in energy demand. It is essential that the rate of growth is minimised, if not reversed, and clearly linked to improvements in efficiency and demand management.

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- Agrees with the position taken by the Stern Review that climate change is an economic, social and environmental problem.
- Believes that it is in Australia's interests to move quickly to limit greenhouse gases.
- Strongly urges the Australian Government to introduce a carbon trading scheme, including the use of appropriate penalties, so that emissions of greenhouse gases are not costless and that the costs of greenhouse gas emissions be borne by emitters of greenhouse gases in proportion to their relative discharge.
- Believes that energy policy should favour as wide a portfolio of measures as possible. Market forces should determine the most effective measure for particular situations in most cases. Where market forces are not a complete answer to the choice of options to mitigate climate effects, government should assist newer options to develop their maturity through regulation and other non-market activities.
- Believes that it is vital that the potential for synergy between emerging energy options that can be deployed in Australia and the development of new export markets should be thoroughly explored.

If the Australian Parliament resolves to repeal the legislation, and the Government progresses its Direct Action Plan, Engineers Australia would welcome the opportunity to discuss viable technical solutions, and commensurate investment, to generate sufficient greenhouse gas emissions savings to meet the current 2020 emissions reduction target. Such measures may include increased investment in:

- Large-scale renewable stationary energy systems;
- Low emission fuels and transport systems;
- Energy demand management measures;
- Biosequestration and bioenergy; and
- Research and development into low emission technologies;
- In addition to development of standards to support a low emission economy, particularly in the industrial, building and heavy transport sectors, extended producer responsibility, and an increase in the Renewable Energy Target.

Should you have any questions about this submission, or Engineers Australia's position more broadly, please do not hesitate to contact me directly, either by telephone on 02 6270 6544, or by email on BJackson@engineersaustralia.org.au.

Thank you for consideration of this submission.

Yours faithfully



Dr Brent Jackson
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Public Affairs and Marketing