

2 May 2003

Dennis Murray  
Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

MRET Review Secretariat GPO Box 621  
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Sir or Madam:

SUBMISSION TO MRET REVIEW

The key issue here is that the Federal Government has clearly stated that, whilst it is not supporting the Kyoto Protocol, it is pursuing a goal of major reductions in our greenhouse gas emissions. Minister for the Environment, Dr. David Kemp, stated in February 2003 that *"Internationally we need to work to put in place a global framework that includes all major emitters, and to bring about the greenhouse reductions necessary to restrain climate change."*

Maximising the production of energy from renewables is undeniably a major way that the above position of the Federal Government can be achieved. I support a consensus position being put forward by a number of environmental, business and community groups, along with renewable energy experts and representatives that the goal be set at a mandatory target of 10% production of our energy needs from renewables by the year 2010.

**This is achievable because:**

- Mandatory targets help propel innovation and uptake of renewable energy
- This is demonstrated by the rapid expansion of renewable energy production and investment driven by the very small target of 1% MRET currently set by the Federal Government
- Appropriate subsidies to the renewable industry will ensure that Australia remains at the forefront of this growing industry, and will surely generate massive investment in our "proven" performers in this area

**The 10% MRET target would have great benefits for the environment:**

- Contribute significantly to a reduction in our production of greenhouse gas emissions, with all the consequent major benefits to the global and Australian environments that would follow
- Our world heritage Great Barrier Reef is at considerable risk of being devastated by coral bleaching caused as a direct result of global warming. Achieving a 10% MRET target would along with other significant actions being taken around the world greatly minimise this risk to this national environmental treasure (and huge economic asset)
- Will help to alleviate likely threats to biodiversity that have been outlined in detail by the IPCC report of January 2001.

**The 10% MRET target would have great benefits for Australian economy:**

- The Wind Energy Association estimates that achievement of the target would be likely to drive investment of a staggering \$10 billion and create more than 9,000 jobs (many of these in depressed regional areas)

- Renewable energies are documented as being more job intensive than mainstream energy production methods, and therefore the target will help considerably to reduce unemployment, particularly in regional areas
- The target would cement Australian renewable industries as world leaders, and assist it to well placed to export this technology to the Asian economies as they begin to take-up this technology over the coming decades, will potentially huge export earnings being generated as a result
- As renewable industries are much cleaner than existing coal-based energy then we can expect considerable health benefits to the community thereby reducing future costs to Government
- Along with other global action to reduce Greenhouse gases the 10% MRET target would help to minimise the number of severe weather events such as the recent drought in Australia (which had a major detrimental impact on the Australian economy)

**For all the above reasons I urge you to support the call for a 10% MRET by 2010 target.** The evidence is compelling that such a target will be in the interests of the wider Australian community, and would certainly be in accord with the government's goals and responsibilities in regard to containing global warming.

I look forward to being kept informed of the progress of the review.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Lanning', written in a cursive style.