



Dr Matthew Hole,
Chair, Australian ITER Forum,
Ph : +61 2 6125 7606
Fax: +61 2 6125 7606
<http://www.ainse.edu.au/fusion.html>

Senator Mathias Cormann,
Chair, Senate Select Committee on Fuel and Energy,
Date: 31 May 2010

Dear Senator Cormann,

Thank you for letter dated 13 May 2010 advising of an opportunity to comment on the impact of the recommendations of 'Henry Tax Review', and the government's response on fuel and energy security. In this letter, which builds on our submission 21 July 2009 addressing the terms of reference of the Committee, we comment on the impact and opportunities provided by the 'Resources Super Profits Tax' to the field of energy research.

Fusion power is a clean energy technology which, if realised, offers millions of years of base load energy generation with almost no greenhouse gas emissions. Like other pre-commercial clean energy technologies, the development of fusion power is reliant on government research support. Although the Australian government is responding to the need for low greenhouse gas emission energy technology, via increased investment in the demonstration phase of clean energy technologies, there is still little pre-commercial research investment in non-fossil fuel energy technology.

The Resources Super Profits Tax provides an opportunity to address an imbalance in the clean energy research sector. We recommend that a small fraction of the Resources Super Profits Tax derived from energy resources be used to support pre-commercial development of non-fossil fuel energy technologies such as fusion. As well as resolving an imbalance in research sector investment, this would also fulfil Australia's responsibility to participate in the global quest for low emission energy solutions beyond fossil fuels, leading to long term base-load energy security.

Should the opportunity arise, representatives from the Forum would be pleased to meet with the Committee to further discuss fusion energy, and the possible options and opportunities available to support clean energy research in the wake of the Resources Super Profits Tax.

We thank the Committee for this opportunity to comment.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Matthew Hole, Chair, Australian ITER Forum

Professor John Howard, Head, Toroidal Plasma,
Plasma Research Laboratory, The Australian National University.

Professor D.J. O'Connor, Chair, Board of the H-1 National Plasma Fusion Research Facility, &
Head, School of Mathematical & Physical Sciences, University of Newcastle.

A/Prof. Boyd Blackwell,
Plasma Research Laboratory, Director H-1 National Plasma Fusion Research Facility.

Professor Andrew Cheetham,
Pro Vice-Chancellor Research, University of Western Sydney.