



Australian ITER Forum

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Clean Energy Program,
Dep. of Resources, Energy and Tourism,
GPO Box 1564,
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Submission on Clean Energy Program Guidelines

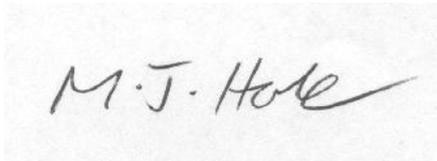
The Australian ITER Forum is a network of scientists, engineers, research administrators and policy specialists advocating sustainable Australian engagement in ITER, the experimental fusion reactor that will be built in France over the next 10 years. Fusion is the process whereby lower atomic weight elements join to form a heavier element. This is the fundamental process that powers the Sun and the stars. Fusion energy offers millions of years of baseload energy generation, with almost no greenhouse gas emissions and very little radioactive waste compared to nuclear fission energy and coal. Development of this energy technology requires committed multilateral programs, and ITER is the only viable global program to achieve this objective.

In this submission, we comment on the Clean Energy Program Guidelines released by the Dep. of Resources, Energy and Tourism on February 2009. Our submission relates to ongoing discussions with the Commonwealth about the possibility of Australian development, prototyping, qualification, construction, installation and operation of a diagnostic set for ITER. As you are aware, scientists from the Australian ITER Forum have an interest composing an expression of interest to develop and prototype an ITER diagnostic set in the Clean Energy Program. In light of this, we have the following recommendations:

- Sec. 3.2, Eligible Technologies. Add “fusion energy” to the list of eligible technologies.
- Sec. 4.6.1, We recommend that the clause “Pro rata depreciation claims for intermittent or part time plant usage are not acceptable”, be removed. In redirecting research priorities for established plant, applicants may also need to consider pre-existing commitments to plant usage. An all or nothing approach makes this problematic.
- Sec. 6.0, Joint funding. The sentence “Only one of the participants can apply for assistance under the CEP, and that lead participant must satisfy the applicant eligibility criteria in its own right.”, suggests that the lead institution must meet 50% of the total project cost, regardless of the contribution of other participants. If this is so, the condition discourages collaborative projects involving multiple institutions, having otherwise advantageous cost sharing arrangements. We recommend that the text be modified to “and that excluding funding, the lead participant must satisfy the applicant eligibility criteria in its own right. Combined, the total non-government participants must be able to fund at least 50 per cent of the eligible project costs (not from another government grant).”

We thank the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism for this opportunity to comment.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "M. J. Hole" in a cursive style, with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end of the name.

Dr M. J. Hole
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<http://www.ainse.edu.au/fusion.html>