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Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications

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**Inquiry into Offshore Electricity Infrastructure (Regulatory Levies) Bill 2021 and
Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Bill 2021**

Dear Committee Secretary and Senators

I am a family man born in Melbourne. I am an under and post graduate student of commerce. My professional career spans over 20 years of telecommunication and energy industry experience in marketing and communications management roles. Over this time I have developed a keen and active personal interest in climate change, the wealth of nations and health of their peoples.

It is my advice to the inquiry that neither bill mentions the words or deals with the matter of “national interest” or “local content”. This is striking given Australia’s extensive and less than satisfactory experience in the development, governance and taxation of offshore energy resources.

Australia is one of only a handful of nations which are for all intents and purposes energy secured. This security however is unfortunately carbon intensive. These bills now quite rightly provide for the development and provisioning of what will be a very significant and decades long train of off shore wind projects to help decarbonise Australia’s electricity sector.

Now, given the expected growth of offshore wind and its increasing importance to energy security, such bills and related should provide for a substantive national interest test and the active investment in and development of an off shore wind manufacturing supply chain in Australia.

Such an approach is common in other developed economies and particularly by our good friends in the UK and US. In the UK they've recently introduced legislation requiring 60% local content for off shore wind farms.

In the US, we see proposed legislation for electric vehicle credits tied directly to local US manufacture. More recently US Senators Warren and Sanders sponsored the Buy Green Act. It hopes to provide US\$1.5 Trillion over ten years to US manufacturers of renewables and other future relevant and critical technologies.

It appears to me that the national interest and local manufacture is front and centre of UK and US climate change emissions policy. It is my recommendation that Australia and these bills put the national interest and local manufacture front and centre of climate change policies too.

Yours sincerely, Rocco Perna.