

29 November 2017

Mr Gerry McNally  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Select Committee into the Political Influence of Donations  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr McNally,

### **Senate Selection Committee into the Political Influence of Donations**

Thank you for your letter of 6 November 2017 seeking information in relation to the above inquiry.

The Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association Ltd (APPEA) is the peak national body representing the oil and gas exploration, development and production industry in Australia. The Association's members account for more than 95 per cent of Australia's petroleum production and the vast majority of exploration. APPEA's membership also includes many companies that provide services to the industry.

APPEA works with all Australian governments to promote the development of the nation's oil and gas resources. We aim to secure regulatory and commercial conditions that enable member companies to operate safely, sustainably and profitably.

The Association also seeks to improve community and government understanding of the upstream petroleum industry by publishing information about the sector's activities and economic contribution to the nation. This was the primary motivation for APPEA's formation in 1959. We continue to provide information on the technology and engineering behind the sector and we coordinate the publishing of an annual academically recognised peer-reviewed journal that helps keep the industry and interested parties informed of technological and scientific developments in the industry.

The objects for which APPEA was established include the following:

- To promote a legislative, administrative, economic and social framework in Australia which efficiently and effectively facilitates safe, environmentally responsible and profitable petroleum exploration, development and production.

- To educate and inform the community and its leaders about the activities, operations and performance of the petroleum exploration and production industry in Australia and the benefits to be derived from developing and fostering the petroleum exploration and production industry in Australia.
- To provide a forum for technical, commercial and social interaction amongst the membership and for the facilitation of effective research and development activity on issues affecting both the petroleum exploration and production industry and the community.

APPEA generally does not make political donations. We do periodically attend conferences convened by political parties to better understand the policy development processes within those parties and to share information on key factors that may impact on future investment in the oil and gas industry.

As indicated above, APPEA's policy is not to make political donations. We aspire to work with all parties that seek to see the development of the nation's oil and gas resources undertaken in an efficient and timely manner.

APPEA's membership is open to entities that either hold an interest in a petroleum tenement or permit, or provide services to the industry. Membership fees are based on the level of production and/or the size of the relevant entity. Details of membership are contained on APPEA's website (see <https://www.appea.com.au/about-appea/membership/>). This information is publicly available.

I trust that the above is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

**Malcolm Roberts**  
Chief Executive