

I am writing to support a Senate Inquiry regarding Research Independence via the Australian Research Council Amendment (Ensuring Research Independence) Bill 2018. In particular, there should be no veto or inference in the decisions of the ARC College of Experts. Proposals to the ARC have already undergone a rigorous process which includes the evaluation of the wider benefits to Australia and a National Interest statement. The Minister should approve 100% of all ARC recommended projects. To not do so damages our international reputation and academic freedom.

Prof. Duncan Forbes

Professor of Astrophysics and Chair of the Swinburne Professoriate

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Professor Duncan A. Forbes

Chair of Professoriate Board

Centre for Astrophysics & Supercomputing