

To whom it may concern.

The dependence of this nation on new technologies that can generate IP that can be out-licensed should be obvious to policy makers. There is global benefit and if properly managed, there is financial return to Australia. This country's contribution to solar hot water heating through grants aided programs to university scholars is massive. There are many other examples.

The current government has, for perhaps ideological reasons, seen fit to severely curtail investment in new and emerging technologies. Commercialisation Australia has effectively closed. My own business would have closed down without modest assistance from CA. Now at least we can contemplate expending our contract research for companies overseas and to out license our technologies. Both create jobs, both create income for Australia via taxation.

The same will be true for projects funded by ARENA. For businesses in renewable energy that must generate inward cash flow, there is a major issue when it comes to progressing R&D on new technologies. Is there enough cash flow to support R&D internally? The answer is usually no.

With expert and proper scrutiny of new technologies ARENA has been able to advance work that will benefit this nation; more so because of our natural advantage in solar radiation. What works here will work anywhere in the global sun belt and beyond.

To close ARENA will be akin to shooting ourselves in the feet and for the wrong reasons.

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