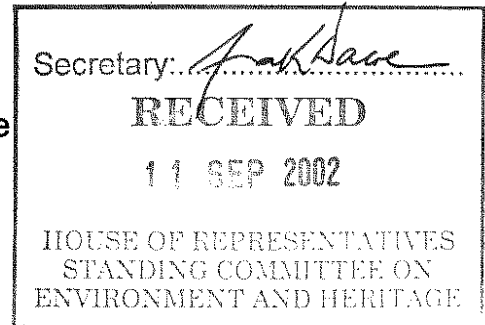




93 York Street
Launceston Tas 7250

9th September, 2002

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives
Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Committee Secretary,

I thank the Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage for the opportunity to make a submission to the Inquiry into Employment in the Environment Sector.

The Renewable and Sustainable Energy ROUNDTABLE (ROUNDTABLE) is a federation of Australia's renewable and sustainable energy industry associations, comprising a breadth of members from research and development, education, through to electricity generation. As a federation of associations the ROUNDTABLE is a peak association in Australia.

The membership of the ROUNDTABLE comprises virtually all the renewable energy generation in Australia, along with co-generation and its associated research and development, and the sustainable energy development programs. The membership of the ROUNDTABLE represents a wide segment of the environmental industry with the main linkage between members being the common aim to abate greenhouse gas emissions.

The ROUNDTABLE is concerned that renewable and sustainable energy production and more generally greenhouse gas abatement, are not specifically mentioned in the terms of reference of this inquiry. This is of particular concern given that the renewable and sustainable energy sectors are a rapidly expanding segment of the environment industries and the reduction of greenhouse gases is a globally significant issue.


A number of our member associations are making considerable attempts to perform economic modelling and analysis to aid decision making in policy however this task is difficult without a centralised and independent information source. I understand that this inquiry has been established for the purposes of creating an adequate information base from which good policy can evolve.

An appropriate industry classification system for the environment industries is essential and I encourage the Commonwealth to facilitate such a development through processes such as this so that the depth and breadth, economic performance and employment in the industry are properly understood and documented. ROUNDTABLE's six step policy to achieving a sustainable energy future is enclosed and will provide you with some further ROUNDTABLE background, membership and initiatives to build employment opportunities in the renewable and sustainable energy industry.

In closing, I stress the importance of including specific reference to the sustainable and renewable energy sectors as an integral part of the environment industries, and the need to appropriately resource analysis of these sectors and their contribution to Australia's economic development and employment.

ROUNDTABLE would welcome any opportunity to be involved further in this inquiry.

Yours sincerely



Hon Peter Rae AO

Chairman

Renewable and Sustainable Energy ROUNDTABLE