

14 June 2007

From:- **Douglas Huntley** of Latham ACT

The Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee
On Industry and Resources
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary,

Please find enclosed my submission to the Inquiry on **Renewable Energy**.

I recommend that an additional inquiry on **energy conservation measures and more efficient use of energy in Australia** be run to connect with this inquiry on Renewable energy. There is likely to be a considerable quantity of material available from the Fraser Government era, during the so called "**Oil Shocks**". It could be recovered from archives.

It would seem that energy future forecasts often fail to take into account the increasing world population which increases energy demand. It is recommended that this Inquiry take note of that.

National Geographic magazine (USA). August 2005 edition contains an article AFTER OIL – Powering the Future, pages 2 to 31, an item on alternatives to the current energy mix. On page 26 is a sub headline POWERING ALL THE WORLD'S VEHICLES WITH BIOFUELS WOULD MEAN DOUBLING THE AMOUNT OF LAND DEVOTED TO FARMING.(attachment 1). It recommended that the Inquiry take note.

Attachment 2 (The Pain in Grain) comes from **The Bulletin** magazine, 24 April 2007 edition; author economist Max Walsh writing on how demand for corn to be turned into biofuels caused price increases for poorer families in Mexico (nb —Mexico imports corn from USA). Attachment 3 from **The Australian** newspaper, 5 February 2007 edition, page 15, Author Mike Meyers outlines potential problems if demand for biofuels creates demand pressures for grain to be turned into fuel.

Please note attachment 4 from **The Australian** newspaper, 18 October 2006 edition, authored by FT Reporters in London. Their line of debate reflects that of attachments 2 and 3.

Recommended reading:

- a. Senate Standing Committee on National Resources, report on: **The Replacement of Petroleum Based Fuels by Alternative Sources of Energy**, published by AGPS (Australian Government Publishing Service) for the Senate, R80/297 Cat No 80 1411 7.
- b. NEAC (National Energy Advisory Committee) Report No 17, Renewable Energy Resources in Australia, published by AGPS, R81/283 Cat No 81 1748 X.
- c. **Energy 2000**, A National Energy Policy Review, SYNFUELS, Discussion paper No 7, March 1986; Department of Resources and Energy.

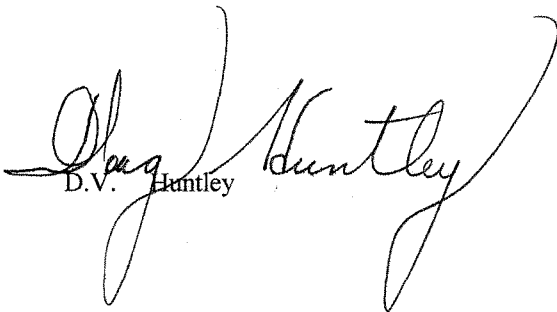
- d **Energy 2000**, A National Energy Policy Review, RENEWABLE ENRGY, Discussion paper No 6, March 1986: Department of Resources and Energy.
- e **Energy 2000**, A National Energy Policy Review, Research and Development, Discussion paper No 8; March 1986, Department of Resources and Energy.
- f **DISCOVER MAGAZINE** (published in USA), item Anything into Oil, April 2006 edition, pages 46 – 50, *turkey guts, junked car part,, and even raw sewerage go in one end of this plant and black gold comes out the other end*), author Brad Lemley.
- h. **National Geographic** magazine (USA), June 2004 edition, pages 80 – 109 contains an article titled “**The end of Cheap Oil**’ gives background into revived interest in renewable energy.
- i **Scientific American** magazine, March 1998 has a special report about **The end of Cheap Oil**, pages 60 to 65, authors Colin J Campbell and Jean H Laherrere.

I grew up during and after world war 2 (1939-1945) when petrol was rationed. Rationing did not cease until 1950, but people managed. Some renewable liquid and gaseous fuels were then used. People coped then and most likely could do so again if necessary.

The future for crude oil based liquid fuels could become difficult, but will not necessarily be impossible. There is room for more Australia wide community optimism. This inquiry could help bring about more optimism in the community.

End of submission.

Yours sincerely


D.V. Huntley