



OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

04 June 2003

The Secretary,
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations
and Education References Committee
Suite SG.52, Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

As the National President of Engineers Australia, I am pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the position of the Chief Scientist Dr Robin Batterham. Although I have not had a significant working relationship with Dr Batterham to date, as a senior office bearer of Engineers Australia, I have attended functions where he has been a speaker and met him on several occasions. I can say with great confidence that he is highly regarded by Engineers Australia as a person of high integrity and enormous technological capacity. As a qualified professional engineer he has recently become President of the UK based Institution of Chemical Engineers.

In particular Engineers Australia Past President, Dr Martin Cole through his membership of the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering & Innovation Council has had the opportunity to work closely with Dr Batterham, and has always spoken highly of the Chief Scientist's outstanding ability and performance.

Engineers Australia is pleased that Dr Batterham will continue in this pivotal national role for another three-year term. We have confidence in his professionalism and objectivity - having no problem with his concurrently holding other senior technical positions in industry. Indeed it would be a sad loss for the nation if Dr Batterham's knowledge, skill and experience were not used to the full.

At a time when we are facing a dire shortage of engineers and scientists, I believe that Dr Batterham stands as a superb role model for our younger generation and an inspiration to those who would aspire to the scientific and engineering leadership of Australia.

Doug Jones, FIEAust, CPEng
National President