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Griffith University welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Senate Economics Legislation Committee on the provisions of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (Repeal) Bill 2014. Griffith University is a stakeholder in the (ARENA). Energy security is arguably the most pressing challenge for Australia's continued prosperity. It is also a complex issue that requires a holistic approach to ensure that the needs of society, the environment and the economy are taken into consideration.

Griffith University is an innovative and research-intensive university with a rapidly growing national and international profile. Griffith University is strategically investing \$40M over five years into select, internationally recognized, areas of research strengths. Of particular relevance to the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, is a significant quantity of active research in clean energy, physical sciences, climate adaptation and the environment being done by Griffith University researchers in the fields of science, engineering, economics, urban planning, environment and social sciences. It is salient that these research activities, regardless of their focus, have common goals - to increase energy efficiency, to reduce the environmental impact, to decrease energy costs and to develop sustainable energy practises.

Only a comprehensive research approach that includes researchers in Technology & Science, Policy & Economics and Social implications will appropriately address sustainability. To this end Griffith University has established the Clean Energy Initiative (<http://www.griffith.edu.au/research/energy-supply-storage-demand>) whose skillset, composition and research interests are unique in Australia. This key group of researchers collaborate with the view to using cross-disciplinary approaches to the development of novel solutions to current and emerging problems in the areas of low cost power, low carbon power, energy security, new consumer markets and technology and business leadership.

The Australian Renewable Energy Agency provides a mechanism by which innovative research into all aspects of renewable energy can be developed and translated for economic gain and community sustainability. Further, support from ARENA enables essential knowledge sharing and capacity building vital for cost-effective investment in energy security.

Continued investment in and support for ARENA will help secure Australia's position as a national technology leader and create a competitive advantage underpinning future economic growth in the core agriculture, mining, construction and tourism sectors, through delivery of cleaner, cheaper, more reliable electricity to the energy grid and off-grid regions.

Thank you for your consideration

Kind regards

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