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Dr Kathleen Dermody
Committee Secretary
Senate Economics Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
By email: economics.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Dr Dermody

Re: Australian Renewable Energy Agency (Repeal) Bill 2014

The Australian National University (ANU) is writing to provide its very strong support for the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), which has been of great importance to the research and teaching missions of the University.

For many decades there has been bipartisan support for renewable energy education and innovation, through a variety of Commonwealth government supported organisations. The motivation for this support has been recognition of Australia's world-class renewable energy resource base; the enormous potential for renewable energy in remote and regional Australia; the very high reputation enjoyed by Australian renewable energy researchers and educators; the large and increasingly realised potential for substantial greenhouse gas emission reductions; and in recent years the opening of true mass-markets in Australia - particularly for wind and solar energy.

Renewable energy is an important area for ANU, encompassing the work of about 80 staff and research students. Both research and teaching related to renewable energy is part of the ANU Energy Change Institute which covers a broad spectrum of energy programs ranging from fundamental science, to the implementation disciplines of energy efficiency, economics, regulatory, social and policy domains.

The ANU has made substantial investment in its renewable energy courses, research skills and our world-class solar research laboratories. These investments attract top renewable energy researchers and companies from Australia and overseas. The investment provided by ARENA has been an important partnership that has enabled ANU to invest these key areas. In addition, the Renewable Energy Major of the ANU Engineering degree is one of the most popular majors for ANU students.

The ANU strongly supports that the Government retain an agency focused on renewable energy and appropriately resourced to support research and education in renewable energy.

Yours sincerely

Professor ~~Ian Young AO~~
~~Vice-Chancellor~~ and President