

Anne Kovachevich

## **Inquiry into The Current State of Australia's Space Science & Industry Sector**

Dear Senate Enquiry Committee,

I would like to offer some of my opinions on the Australia Space Science Industry. I have almost completed an experimental PhD in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Queensland and have been involved in the Australian Space Industry for around 10 years.

I have recently started working full time in the building services industry. It is with some regret that I have pursued a career away from Aerospace however I do believe that the opportunity offered to me was a better career prospect.

I have been involved in the Hyshot project. The appeal of this project was that it was its ability to achieve a high level of success through hard work and enthusiasm. I believe that the collaborative HiFire program has some compromises as it now operates within defence based environment, particularly as it operates within the weapons section of DSTO.

I believe that government sponsored space projects should aim to be separate from defence based applications. Space tourism and interplanetary research provide inspirational benefits for the community.

I also find the level of support and respect for post graduate study within Australia to be disappointing. The financial support whilst completing a PhD is considerably low compared to other employment alternatives. Furthermore, the level of experience achieved during the course of a PhD is not considered to be of the same level as industry experience. This means that in addition to a tight financial situation whilst studying this is coupled with reduced incomes for further years. This is out of step with many places around the world. European postgraduate study is a well respected professional achievement and efforts to adopt this feeling within Australia would help to encourage intelligent Australians to pursue research options.

I would however like to finish this letter on a positive note. The opportunities offered to me in the years that I have been involved in Aerospace research have been rewarding and exciting. I have visited places like NASA and had wonderful experiences in Scramjet research. This has led to me being an enthusiastic person in any career that I undertake. The experience and knowledge that I have achieved has been invaluable. I hope that many people who find themselves with an interest and talent for science and engineering get to experience the opportunities that were available to me.

Yours Sincerely

Anne Kovachevich  
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