



19 November 2012

The Secretary
House Standing Committee on Economics
House of Representatives
PO Box 6012
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

SENT VIA EMAIL: economics.reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary,

Submission to the Inquiry into Australia's Oil Refinery Industry

The Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (Mining & Energy Division) welcomes this opportunity to make a submission to the above inquiry.

The CFMEU has significant membership at the Clyde Refinery in Sydney that is in the process of closing refinery operations and converting to an import-only terminal. Our work in pursuit of alternatives to closure forms the body of this submission. This work was undertaken before the closure of the only other refinery in Sydney at Kurnell was announced. The concerns that were relevant in the context of the loss of 40% of Sydney's oil refining capacity are doubly relevant in the face of complete loss of the industry.

I direct the Committee's attention to the attached 4 page summary of the Clyde issue in the first instance. Also attached is the major report commissioned by the union, and the union's correspondence to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, and the National Competition Council.

It is already accepted by the Australian Government that Australia's liquid fuel security situation is deteriorating but it has proposed no measures to restore that security. As with Shell's intended takeover of the Woodside Petroleum Ltd in 2001 (which was rejected on public interest grounds) the current government would do well to understand that what is in the interests of Shell (and other oil majors) is often not in the interests of Australian business, workers and communities.

Yours sincerely,

Lorraine Usher
Secretary
NSW Energy District, CFMEU Mining & Energy