



# REGA

24 February 2005

Peter Hallahan  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Economic Legislation Committee  
Suite SG.64  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Hallahan

**RE: SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE ECONOMIC LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – Inquiry  
into the Tax Laws Amendment (2004 Measures No. 7) Bill 2004**

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Senate Economic Legislation Committee Inquiry regarding the *Tax Laws Amendment (2004 Measures No. 7) Bill 2004*.

The Renewable Energy Generators of Australia (REGA) was formed in 1999 to provide a voice for the renewable energy industry, and to provide support for renewable energy initiatives that encourage the development of the Australian renewable energy industry.

REGA is an association of organisations with a common purpose of supporting the development of generation of electricity from truly renewable resources. REGA represents all sectors of the renewable energy industry; membership comprises 95% of Australia's existing generation capacity, together with equipment suppliers, developers and industry specialists.

REGA writes to express its concerns of commercial inequality with the proposed increased tax incentive for petroleum exploration in 'designated frontier areas' under *Schedule 5 of the Tax Laws Amendment (2004 Measures No. 7) Bill 2004*.

REGA recognises the positive economic influences that responsible petroleum exploration within Australia offers, as well as the significant role that oil and gas presently plays in our global society. As these finite resources are becoming less accessible, REGA supports appropriate federal incentives that assist with resource exploration.

REGA recognises that the spirit of this Bill is promoting exploration and development of Australia's energy resources to create a sustainable energy industry in Australia that contributes to a balanced national economy well into the future.



Australia has recognised renewable energy as a clean and dependable form of electricity generation that easily compliments conventional forms of electricity generation such as petroleum-based power plants.

REGA believes that any incentives awarded to organisations for the exploration of non-renewable resources intended for energy generation (such as the 150% tax incentive outlined in *Schedule 5*) should be at least matched with incentives awarded to organisations for the exploration of renewable resources intended for energy generation.

Both renewable and non-renewable contributors to the same energy sector have proven their ability to create long-term economic benefits through job growth and investment, yet traditional perspectives on petroleum as being the only true energy resource has allowed an imbalance in today's energy industry.

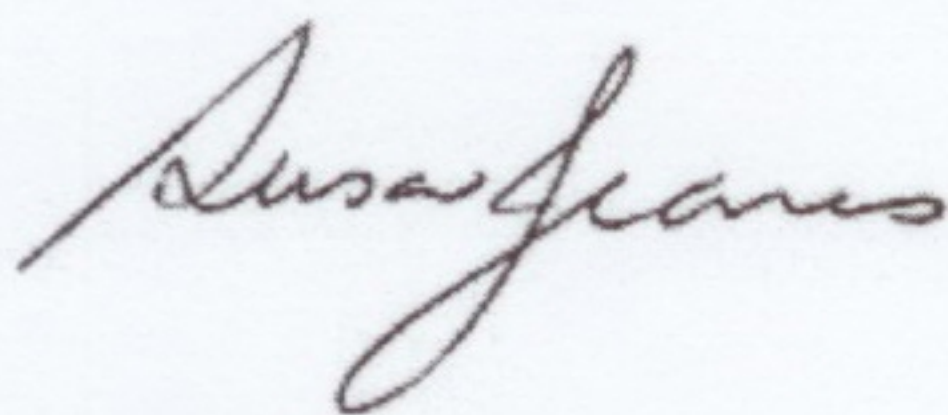
REGA requests a level playing field.

REGA proposes an equal set of incentives towards the research, exploration and development of renewable energy resources be introduced to support a balanced, sustainable future for Australia's energy industry.

REGA proposes that the Senate Economic Legislation Committee call for 'Expressions of Interest' to renewable energy generators to assist with drafting an independent Bill that recognises and provides an equal set of incentives for the research, exploration and development within the renewable energy industry immediately following this Bill's passing.

REGA would appreciate the opportunity to provide further substantiation and supplementary evidence in relation to these matters.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan Jeanes".

Susan Jeanes  
Chief Executive Officer