

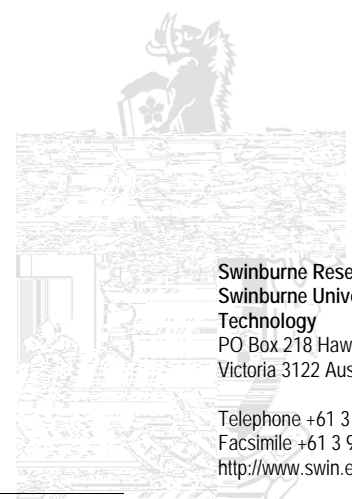
16 July 2014



To the Senate Economics Legislation Committee

THE AUSTRALIAN RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY (ARENA) REPEAL BILL 2014

On behalf of Swinburne University of Technology, I wish to express our objections to the proposed abolition of ARENA. While we were disappointed in the budget measure to reduce Government funding into renewable energies over the forward estimates, we believe that ARENA should be retained as a separate government agency dedicated to encouraging innovation and investment in renewable energies. Dismantling of the agency, as proposed in the ARENA Repeal Bill 2014, would be detrimental to Australia's education, energy innovation and commercialisation sectors



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Geoffrey Brooks, an international expert in metal production. ARENA provided \$90,000 to the project and this money has been leveraged by Swinburne through a co-commitment of \$120,000 and resulted in the purchase of a Solar Simulator – the only one in the southern hemisphere – with which to undertake the research. The practical outcomes of this research will enable Australia to add value to our minerals at the point of extraction. At the same time, the research is building expertise in renewable energy technologies amongst top researchers working within other disciplines.

Other leading Swinburne scientists, currently working in the area of renewable energy in partnerships with ARENA include:

Professor Min Gu - an elected Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, the Australian Institute of Physics, the Optical Society of America, the International Society for Optical Engineering and the Institute of Physics (UK). He is a Laureate Fellow of the Australian Research Council and it is his work that is the basis of the MoU with the Taifeng Group in Sichuan. The Australian Solar Institute funded two post-doctoral fellows working with Prof Gu in projects now managed by ARENA.