



29 September 2016

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP  
Prime Minister  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

#### **Civil Society Call for Parliamentary Inquiry into the PRRT**

I write this letter on behalf of the members of the Tax Justice Network – Australia, and other concerned organisations representing a broad cross section of Australian civil society. We call on the government and opposition parties to commit to a parliamentary inquiry into the Petroleum Rent Resource Tax (PRRT) as soon as possible. The undersigned organisations have major concerns about forecasts of declining or stagnant government revenue from the PRRT coinciding with Australia becoming the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

LNG will soon compete with iron ore to be Australia's largest export. However, various analyses show that the primary resource tax on this export, the PRRT, will not collect any new revenue for decades to come.

Concerns were raised about the effectiveness of the PRRT in the Henry Tax Review. Since then the scope of the PRRT has been expanded to cover all oil and gas, onshore and offshore, including CSG. Despite the expanded scope, it appears that other changes to the PRRT system have further reduced current and future government revenues.

The PRRT system, based on voluntary compliance and self-reporting, operates with limited transparency and inadequate oversight. Australians need greater public confidence that they will benefit fairly from the exploitation of our natural resources.

An immediate parliamentary inquiry into the PRRT would help clarify these issues and inform policy development to close off any gaps in the future PRRT tax base. A robust tax base is essential to fund education, health care and other government services and restore the Budget over time.

Please send your response to me, acting on behalf of TJN-Australia, and I will communicate with TJN members and other undersigned organisations.

Sincerely,



Jason Ward

[Ward\\_Jason@itf.org.uk](mailto:Ward_Jason@itf.org.uk)

0488 190 457

CC: The Hon Scott Morrison MP, Treasurer  
The Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP, Minister for Revenue and Financial Services  
The Hon Bill Shorten MP, Leader of the Opposition  
The Hon Chris Bowen MP, Shadow Treasurer  
The Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP, Shadow Assistant Treasurer

**Additional Organisations Supporting a Parliamentary Inquiry into the PRRT**

ActionAid – Australia  
APHEDA - Union Aid Abroad  
Australia Institute  
Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF)  
Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)  
Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU)  
Australian Education Union (AEU)  
Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU)  
Conservation Council of Western Australia (CCWA)  
GetUp!  
Greenpeace – Australia Pacific  
International Society for the Promotion of Ethical Taxation Behaviours (ISPETB)  
International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF)  
Maritime Union of Australia (MUA)  
Mineral Policy Institute  
Public Services International (PSI) – Oceania  
Publish What You Pay (PWYP) – Australia  
The Wilderness Society  
United Voice  
Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania  
350.org

## **Background on the Tax Justice Network Australia**

The Tax Justice Network Australia (TJN-Aus) is the Australian branch of the Tax Justice Network (TJN) and the Global Alliance for Tax Justice. TJN is an independent organisation launched in the British Houses of Parliament in March 2003. It is dedicated to high-level research, analysis and advocacy in the field of tax and regulation. TJN works to map, analyse and explain the role of taxation and the harmful impacts of tax evasion, tax avoidance, tax competition and tax havens. TJN's objective is to encourage reform at the global and national levels.

The Tax Justice Network aims to:

- (a) promote sustainable finance for development;
- (b) promote international co-operation on tax regulation and tax related crimes;
- (c) oppose tax havens;
- (d) promote progressive and equitable taxation;
- (e) promote corporate responsibility and accountability; and
- (f) promote tax compliance and a culture of responsibility.

In Australia the current members of TJN-Aus are:

- ActionAid Australia
- Aid/Watch
- Anglican Overseas Aid
- Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)
- Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU)
- Australian Education Union
- Australian Services Union
- Baptist World Aid
- Caritas Australia
- Columban Mission Institute, Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice
- Community and Public Service Union
- Friends of the Earth
- GetUp!
- Global Poverty Project
- Greenpeace Australia Pacific
- International Transport Workers Federation
- Jubilee Australia
- Maritime Union of Australia
- National Tertiary Education Union
- New South Wales Nurses and Midwives' Association
- Oaktree Foundation
- Oxfam Australia
- Save the Children Australia
- SEARCH Foundation
- SJ around the Bay
- Social Policy Connections
- Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, Uniting Church in Australia
- TEAR Australia
- Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA
- United Voice
- UnitingWorld
- UnitingJustice
- Victorian Trades Hall Council
- World Vision Australia