



48 Hilma Street
Collaroy Plateau, NSW 2097
8 September 2004

The Hon. Ian Macfarlane
Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources
Member for Groom
P.O. Box 777
Toowoomba, Qld., 4350

Dear Minister,

During this current election campaign, many Australians who are actively employed in the resources sector, or in directly related supply and service industries, will be very interested in the positions taken by the major parties on encouraging the long-term viability of the sector. On behalf of the Australian Geoscience Council, I am pleased to invite you (as well as representatives of the other parties - see page 2) to provide a brief statement of your party's policy for this election (perhaps three or four sentences, possibly with reference to more comprehensive policy statements posted on a web site) on the following three questions:

- 1. What is your party's policy on incentives to encourage increased resource exploration, particularly in regard to the introduction of an Australian flow-through share arrangement and the provision of tax deductibility for audited greenfields exploration expenditure?**
- 2. What is your party's commitment to funding Geoscience Australia to more closely match the investments by the State and Territory governments, in order to coordinate and extend basic pre-competitive geoscience data sets over the whole Australian continent and offshore areas?**
- 3. What is your party's commitment to tackle land degradation and encourage the sustainable use of groundwater?**

The Australian Geoscience Council is the Peak Council of geoscientists in Australia. It represents nine major Australian geoscientific societies and has a membership of over 7000 professionals. We believe that the geosciences are critical for Australia. The mineral and petroleum industries are the main export earners and underpin the nation's wealth creation. The geosciences are needed to discover, develop and manage these resources. Our future prosperity will depend on these industries remaining healthy, innovative and internationally competitive. Australia faces huge challenges in respect of sustainability of our life style, our environment and our capacity to contribute internationally. Issues of land degradation, water resources, energy supplies, climate change, urbanisation and natural hazards affect not just Australia but the whole Earth.

We would be happy to communicate your views to all of our members prior to election day.

Yours sincerely

Mike Smith
President

The same letter is being sent to the following representatives:

The Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon MP
Shadow Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources
Member for Hunter
P.O. Box 526
Cessnock NSW 2325

Senator the Hon. Bob Brown
Senator for Tasmania
P.O. Box 404
Hobart Tas., 7001

Senator the Hon. Andrew Bartlett
Senator for Queensland
Suite 14 B1
7/421 Brunswick Street
Fortitude Valley QLD 4006