

Tuesday, 8 April 2008

“Response to Submission to Issues Paper 4 - Geoff Peverell”

Questions for consideration

How can Australian governments improve policy clarity, continuity and coherence for businesses for looking to invest in new energy technologies, or in other sectors with the potential to contribute to mitigation or adaptation?

There is a need for competent Public Services. Bring back the motto **without fear or favour**. Without government involvement in areas such as electricity, railways etc and reducing belief based decision making then there will continue to be problems such as the 420,000 plus electricity disconnections on a not extremely windy day in Victoria. Eddington makes much of cost blow outs being absorbed by the private sector but in reality its a waste of resources irrespective of which cookie jar the money comes from.

Skipping over a few logic steps lets say that Victoria had its State Electricity Commission to develop electricity production from the Victoria Brown coal fields but the best example to catch the public mind would be the Snowy Mountains Authority set up to develop Hydro Electric Power. Setting up millions of solar panels and electrolysis units to produce Hydrogen for The Hydrogen Economy in NW Victoria, SW New South Wales and Eastern South Australia is nothing like as romantic as building tunnels and dams etc but despite that:-

We need a Solar Making Hydrogen from Electricity Authority.

Questions for consideration

*In what areas would coordinated international public good research be warranted?
What are the appropriate institutional arrangements for shared public good research that will ensure the best outcomes at minimal administrative costs?
How can governments encourage the diffusion of technology internationally without diluting the incentives for innovation?*

Clearly international public research should be carried out into producing energy/electricity by hydrogen fusion. Currently international work is being carried out by ITER. See www.iter.org.

ITER is taking 10 years to build an experimental reactor followed by 10 years of experiments then hopefully the first production plants would be built.

There is a paper by ANSTO, Australian Nuclear Science Technology Organisation (?) advocating their involvement. Unlike Nuclear Energy by Uranium fission this is a much cleaner nuclear process with waste storage only needing 100 years rather than millennia.

It does require mildly radioactive Tritium, which needs to be produced by other nuclear processes so this is of concern.

This would be the technology following the "The Hydrogen Economy". Much information and some disinformation can be found on the internet under "hydrogen economy".

Following hydrogen fusion then Helium-3 fusion this would be the next step. This may be one reason for the Americans wanting to go back to the Moon!

Questions for consideration

Does coordination improve research outcomes and thereby outcomes for society?

How large are the coordination failures in Australia?

How can government create more cohesive research environments and promote genuine

cooperation between rival firms or organisations? Is this a role for government?

How can there be cooperation in the face of the "Competition Policy"? By a review and reducing its status from a Mantra to something more realistic!

Questions for consideration

In what areas would coordinated international public good research be warranted?

See Above on ITER

What are the appropriate institutional arrangements for shared public good research that will

ensure the best outcomes at minimal administrative costs?

How can governments encourage the diffusion of technology internationally without diluting

the incentives for innovation?

More research published or archived on the Internet so that it can have wider scrutiny without having to chase up obscure publications.

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