



The Hon Keith Pitt MP

Minister for Resources and Water

MC21-005585

Mr Clancy Moore
National Director
Publish What You Pay Australia
Clancy.Moore@actionaid.org

Dear Mr Moore

Thank you for your letter of 30 July 2021 on behalf of the civil society representatives of Australia's Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Multi-Stakeholder Group.

The Australian Government is committed to encouraging transparency in Australia's resources sector. Australia has an effective tax transparency framework for companies, including resources companies. Public tax transparency regarding corporate income tax paid by companies is delivered by the Corporate Tax Transparency report and the Voluntary Tax Transparency Code along with financial reporting obligations under the *Corporations Act 2001*.

As you know, the Government has yet to respond to the Board of Taxation's review of the Voluntary Tax Transparency Code. It is difficult to see that any further measures would be required to improve transparency of payments by resource companies to governments if, for example, the scope of reporting obligations under the Voluntary Tax Transparency Code is expanded to cover a comprehensive range of payments by companies to the Commonwealth and state and territory governments. As my letter of 22 April 2021 conveyed, this is why I consider it would be premature for the EITI Multi-Stakeholder Group to reconvene to discuss implementation ahead of the Government's response to the Board of Taxation's review.

The Government agrees that the need for improving transparency and governance is more pressing in developing nations in which Australia's resources companies operate and, as you observe, continues to provide financial support for EITI internationally.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Pitt'.

Keith Pitt

119/2021