

To: Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

27 December 2022

RE: Environment and Other Legislation Amendment (Removing Nuclear Energy Prohibitions) Bill 2022

Dear Secretary

I am writing in support of the Environment and Other Legislation Amendment (Removing Nuclear Energy Prohibitions) Bill 2022.

Nuclear energy is a proven way to achieve zero carbon emissions and if managed carefully does so with minimal environmental, social, and economic impacts.

Under current plans for renewable energy project, vast amount of land and resources are required (millions upon millions of solar panels, and many thousands of wind turbines – not to mention that vast energy storage facilities including batteries, hydrogen and hydro. Unlike intermittent renewables nuclear energy provides predictable and reliable baseload power. There is no need to over-engineer a system that involves multiple back-up systems including a large margin of excess generation capacity for weather-related nadirs in energy production, and batteries, hydrogen storage, hydro and gas back up facilities. Intermittent renewables have a usable life of only about twenty to thirty years, whereas nuclear is likely to be in use for many decades longer. The environmental and economic impacts of nuclear energy appear to be significantly less.

If placed where coal energy plants currently exist, there would be little need to rewire the national grid. In contract renewables are more suited for other locations around NSW. Communities that are currently reliant on coal and coal energy production for employment will suffer major economic and social impacts should energy production be shifted to other locations. Nuclear energy gives these communities a significant opportunity to continue thriving.

In conclusion, I believe that nuclear energy is a way forward for addressing carbon emissions, with minimal social, environment and economic impacts.

Regards,
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