

Keith Derek Kerr



Craigieburn, Victoria, 3064

12th December 2022

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications.

PO Box 6100

Parliament House

Canberra, ACT, 2600

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

My name is Keith Kerr as a concerned citizen I felt compelled to write my submission to you. I for a very long time have witnessed nations around the world building Nuclear Power plants and developing safer forms of nuclear power that provides low cost, reliable load based green energy whilst Australia sits on its ass doing nothing towards reducing the cost of energy as a result of the Nuclear Energy Prohibition.

The prohibition on Nuclear Energy bill was based on fear of a Nuclear catastrophe that is the risks to health and the environment as witnessed by the Chernobyl 1986 event and the Fukushima 2011 event. Since then a large number of reactors have been built around the world and technological advances have been made to significantly reduce the risk of a meltdown.

Recently you had received a report from the CSIRO stating that the building costs of a nuclear power plant were too expensive. This report use an assumption that the interest rate on borrowed capital would be 10%.At the time of writing of the report interest rates were 1.5%. **This report has totally mislead the government and used false evidence to destroy the prospect of developing nuclear energy here in Australia.** The author of the report should be ashamed of himself. If these nuclear power plants currently being built around the world were so cost ineffective no nation would be building them! So why are the leading countries around the world embracing nuclear power by building new nuclear power plants and why is Japan and Germany reopening their existing nuclear power plants? Because Nuclear power is a safe and very effective source of reliable green emissions free energy

For economic growth and security, **you as a government, need to overturn the ban that prohibits nuclear-powered electrical generation in Australia along with any current legislation that prevents the government from competing against private businesses.** We have been denied nuclear power for far too long and this legislation must be repealed. We were told privately ran businesses run

more efficiently than government run businesses well if that is the case then there should be no reason for any privately run business owners to complain against a decision to build and compete against the private sector for electrical generation.

Manufacturing can only be revived if we are allowed to build clean reliable renewable low-cost nuclear energy plants using the safe Thorium Molten Salt Reactors or the Thorium Pebble Bead Reactors that are environmentally friendly. To build a reactor that produces 45MWh of electricity these reactors take only 1,000 tonnes of material input to build compared with wind generators that require 16,500 tonnes of material input to build just to produce the same amount of electricity making wind generation many times more expensive than Thorium-based reactors and requires less land to be built on. Compare ten square meters for a modular pebble-bead reactor to one hundred acres of land required for an ineffective wind farm. These nuclear reactors will significantly reduce our CO2 greenhouse gas emissions and produce much-needed continuous revenue streams for the government coffers. These nuclear reactors need to be built before any premature shutdown of coal-fired power stations to maintain the energy requirements of the nation. We cannot afford to deny Australia the nuclear energy option.

The future of this nation rests upon decisive decision making by a government that has the vision and the foresight to do what is clearly needed and build nuclear power plants using the latest technologies such as the Molten Salt Reactors to provide the population with low cost reliable green no emission safe energy source We have an abundant supply of Uranium and Thorium. Today we have a choice of super safe reactors to choose from. The Pebble Bead Reactors, The Molten Salt Reactors and the conventional Uranium core reactors. The world is turning back to Nuclear power and we need to embrace this technology so that we as a nation can become more self-sufficient.

The governments' of Australia over the past forty years has created a situation that has caused the closure of many businesses due to the high cost of electricity. Before privatisation we had an over capacity of supply of electricity and the reason for this was to allow for the expansion and growth of businesses and housing in the economy. **This over capacity was viewed by stupid government officials as being a waste of resources and accused the state owned electricity commission as being inefficient as an excuse to sell off the electrical generation.** Which has caused much pain for all Australians by shortage of supply for base load electricity and soaring costs through gouging by the energy suppliers.

In Victoria, the main driver behind the closure of many businesses and manufacturing industries including the aluminium smelters at Geelong and

Portland was the significant increase in the cost of electricity. I would recommend a phasing-out of solar and wind energy in favour of Thorium-based reactors to produce the nation's future energy needs as they require fewer material inputs, less manpower, and would be cheaper to build and run whilst producing low-cost, reliable renewable energy securing the nations future energy needs. Once built they would be good for seventy five years, where wind and solar are good for ten to fifteen years before they need replacing.

Research shows nuclear power results in fewer deaths to people than dam failures, oil rig explosions and instances where people fall when installing solar panels. The modular Molten Salt reactors occupy a much smaller area than any existing power plants and can be installed where existing coal fired generators are being decommissioned. This way you would reduce costs as they could easily be connected directly into the grid using the existing infrastructure.

It is a known fact that Nuclear power produces twice the amount of electricity than that of solar and wind generation, The 2022 OECD NEA report on meeting emissions targets highlights the fact that wind and solar will not get us to net zero emissions and it will send us broke, **If we as a nation want the cleanest and most reliable energy source available then in the long term nuclear power is the best option.**

Cost of building a nuclear power plant should not be used as an excuse not to build one when there are so many options available for low cost financing to build such a project. **For economic growth and security you as a government need to establish a National Infrastructure Bank.** A bank to finance major Infrastructure projects without the need to borrow money from overseas. (No foreign debt). It can be self-financed by selling government bonds and then using that money to create National Credit backed by the wealth of the Nation. This would facilitate efficient, long-term financing of infrastructure projects that create new business and economic growth and new job creation. Just like the Commonwealth Bank did during the second world war. We could build many shovel-ready projects like the Bradfield Scheme, the Iron Boomerang railroad, and Thorium Molten Salt Reactors to produce low-cost electrical generation. **All this can be done without costing the taxpayer one cent.** Each of these projects are long term but the benefits are enormous for the government and the people of Australia. If you look at how China finances its infrastructure using the so called American system you would quickly realise that Australia could do the same thing like we did during world war 2 with the old Commonwealth Bank.

This is not a time for inflammatory rhetoric is it a time for mature sensible and decisive decision making that puts the interests of the Australian people first. I am prepared to discuss with any politician anything that I have

mentioned in this communication to you. I can be contacted on [REDACTED] Could you please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Kindest regards Keith Kerr – 1992 Shire of Bulla Citizen of the year