

Name: Timothy Clifford

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To: Committee Secretary, Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications

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

Dear Committee Secretary,

I am writing as I was extremely concerned to learn that several politicians are pushing for the removal of the Nuclear Energy Prohibitions Bill. I am strongly opposed to this as nuclear energy is not a viable solution both in a financial and technological sense and presents a huge risk for current and future Australians.

Everyday Australians are currently feeling the pressure of energy price increases due to our ageing infrastructure, a result of political inaction for over a year. Renewables are here, they're cheaper than all other forms of energy and have virtually no environmental impact when compared to fossil fuels or nuclear. Considering nuclear energy will only slow the transition to renewables and lead to further increases in energy bills for Australian families.

It's true that sunshine and wind can't be dug up, which is likely why some politicians and their millionaire mining donors are so against them.

The proponents of nuclear talk about futuristic, modular reactors. These are nowhere near being commercially available and it's unclear if they ever will be. Even if we assume they will be at some point, the issues around nuclear waste and security threats remain and these will only increase as climate change grows more extreme.

Our own climate science and policy experts, Climate Council, have already ruled out nuclear energy as a viable solution - "Nuclear power stations are highly controversial, can't be built under existing law in any Australian state or

territory, are a more expensive source of power than renewable energy, and present significant challenges in terms of the storage and transport of nuclear waste, and use of water.” Let’s listen to the experts, not a group of self-interested politicians and lobbyists.

I strongly urge members of the senate to decouple Australia’s energy resources from dangerous, polluting, finite resources and focus our efforts on natural, clean, infinite renewables. We have the potential to be a clean energy superpower, strengthening our economy, security and environment for Australians now, and in centuries to come.

Thank you for your time and attention,
Timothy Clifford