

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment
and Communications.
PO Box 6100
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Canberra ACT 2600

Date 15 December 2022

SUBMISSION: Environment and Other Legislative Amendment (Removing Nuclear Energy Prohibitions) Bill 2022

I write in support of removing prohibitions on Nuclear Energy Prohibitions. I am a private citizen concerned about the future of reliable and affordable and dispatchable power. Australia is the only country in the world to have such a prohibition on construction based on earlier false scares about reactor safety and generation of nuclear waste as I recall. Modern generation reactors are much safer.

What concerns me is the pressure to shut down existing coal fired power stations without regard to replacing that generating capacity prior to closure of power stations with alternate supply be that solar electricity or wind power or hydro or other possibilities including nuclear power.

The current government both Federal and State needs to wake up to reality. The electricity Generating and distribution has been privatised and so governments have lost control and are at the mercy of power companies greed. If companies shutdown the power stations progressively the current system allows the private operators to charge the System operator more for their power based on market supply system.

I can see the system failing if not enough dispatchable power is available and meaning there will be load shedding, blackouts and possibly brown outs. (Brown Out Refer what happened in Auckland NZ a few years ago when people were without power for months due system damage done.)

We are seeing forecasts of 50 percent plus increases in power prices even if the government manages to rein in increases by subsidies or caps on supply inputs of coal or gas. It is not just the cost of electricity to individuals only. The Government should not have to bear this cost either. Nor should industry and manufacturing who rely on cheap affordable electricity. Impacting our economy and future jobs well paid hopefully. So it is important. Our economy must remain competitive with the rest of the world.

There are a lot of issues that need to be thought about and addressed urgently.

It is too much to believe that wind and solar will carry the day by themselves.

How much solar and wind system capacity has been added in last 10 years. Not much and is it unlikely it can step up in the short term and what are the real costs?

Other views put out there that solar and wind are the cheapest sources, well that neglects the need of additional the transmission line costs that is required because of renewable energy and what about the cost of Snowy 2.0 Australia's biggest battery and net user of power. Better the project finish ASAP and be happy to pay whatever to get it operational.

The Government both State and Federal should consider going back in being active owners of power generating assets and consider full or partial nationalisation of electrical generation and distribution industry. Government to consider taking back control.

Remember before last Federal Election it was stated that power prices would be going down.

Do we all have to go off grid at home? What is going to happen to the cost of solar panels that mostly come from China and we are not getting on very well with them ? China might cut off supply

based on the fact we now have US B52 Nuclear bombers and based in Australia for the US and Australia being part of ARKUS defence pack and UK and US Nuclear Subs serviced here that patrol the South China Sea if things get out of hand over Taiwan or something else. What about the cost of Lithium batteries when everyone wants them in every country on earth or until there is a new battery technology available that is affordable ? Do you want to put all your eggs of wind and solar basket ?

All the issues with wind also for instance not everyone is happy with them and they don't supply power all the time. I don't think they have been a total success anyway take German reliance on Wind Power. Not enough power generated (never will be) and needing to import Coal Fired Power from Poland and Nuclear Power from France. Also forced to restart 2 Nuclear Power Plants to provide power due shortage of Russian Gas.

Please note Citizens Party video via Citizens Party website or Utube titled Its Time to Lift the Ban on nuclear power in Australia by Benjamin Pearce. Recommended to watch.

Note the Chinese have pulled out of a major Nuclear Power Construction Joint Venture Project in the UK (many Billions of Pounds a big deal) as the English have been delaying proceeding for 4 years.

The Europeans and British are building nuclear power stations also Asia China and India and smaller Nations. France already has 70% Nuclear source generating capacity and will increase and already exports electricity to neighbouring countries. France has recently approved the building of many more nuclear power stations. France to start planning and design for 6 EPR2's in 2022 and aiming to start construction in 2028 with First reactor commissioned by 2035.

Sweden with 40% Nuclear supplied power will look to build more power stations.

These European Nations see Nuclear Power as a means to comply with reduction in green house gases. I am sure others will follow if they are serious to reduce green house gases and reliance on fossil fuels including gas.

Another Opinion worthwhile considering is Elon Musk who states that under present energy issues nuclear power plants should not be shut down and decommissioned plants should re open. New nuclear plants should be considered. Remember his company supplies Tesla batteries for power storage for houses and large battery sold to South Australia to back their power grid.

Australia has abundant deposits of Uranium and Thorium and the CSIRO developed Synroc back in the 1960's which you could encapsulate uranium waste in a synthetic rock or glass which is 100 percent impervious and stop leeching out harmful radiation into the outside environment. Former prime minister Bob Hawke was in favour of nuclear industry but it never became the Labor party's policy. We have the ability to store nuclear waste in geologically very stable rock strata not subject to a water table and waste further could be encased in concrete. Solving the waste problem for the world and possibly a lucrative business supplying nuclear fuel and treating the waste at back end. Note First generation Nuclear technology of the 1950's has moved on and will evolve further. power. It is now possible to re process much of the nuclear waste of older plants in some of the newer technology plants. Potentially good for Australian economy if we make uranium and nuclear industry part of our economy which could provide significant revenue into the future

ATTACHMENTS TO SUBMISSION:

Taken from the internet

1. Refer Greenpeace France 2022 publication attached on 6 reasons why nuclear energy is not the way to a green and peaceful world. It is sketchy making unproven statements that sadly have been believed by many people. All of those stated reasons have been debunked and

can be managed by modern technology.

The Greens want to take us back to the dark ages and continue to make hysterical claims good at warning of problems stopping this and that banging on about Climate Change and renewables. They are quite content to enjoy the benefits on modern life such using electricity. Heating and cooling homes and driving cars or travelling on Public Transport systems, flying in aeroplanes. They don't have realistic plans or alternatives that will work on a large scale for the modern world or improve the lot of people in poorer countries and how to improve the living conditions and to manage environmental issues.

I encourage reading of the comments posted following the French Greenpeace internet posting.

2. Refer Article attached from World Nuclear News on Sweden's plans to once again construct Nuclear Plants following a period when no new power plants were permitted. Still 40 percent of Sweden's power comes from Nuclear sources at present.
3. Nuclear Options for Australia
Refer attached extract from Nuclear for CLIMATE Australia website viz:
nuclearforclimate.com.au
Also encourage a study of the website as it much information on provision relevant to the case for providing Nuclear Power to Australia. View the brilliant model developed by Dr Robert Bar which looks at different scenarios using renewables, nuclear and mix of both to find and optimum solution for Australia.
- 4 Refer attached article from Citizens Party Alert Service 26 October 2022 Vol. 24 No 43 Titled UQ (University Of Queensland) Nuclear Power Report Debunks Labor's Naysaying P1 & P2 THE UQ June 2021 Report Titled What would be required for nuclear energy plants to be operating from 2030's authored by a team of researchers led by Prof. Stephen Wilson, a specialist in energy management from School of Mechanical and Mining Engineering. The authors have come to a view that Australia should embrace nuclear energy. Recommended reading.
- 5 Refer Article in Citizens Party Alert Service 26 October 2022 Vol 24 No 43 Needed A Nuclear Power Renaissance pages 1 & 2 Recommended reading it covers US Nuclear Power past and present limitations and look at what is needed into the future more broadly.