

27<sup>th</sup> May, 2023

**Defence Legislation Amendment (Naval Nuclear Propulsion) Bill  
2023**

**Submission to the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence  
and Trade Legislation.**

Dear members of the Committee,

I write as an individual, a retired medical practitioner, parent and grandparent to oppose the proposed bill.

The existing legislations are there to protect the safety of Australia and its residents and the environment and animals and plants within it. Nothing about the need for this protection has changed since the legislations were written.

The very fact that these current pieces of legislation obstruct the adoption of nuclear powered submarines by Australia indicates that the decision to buy and build such equipment is flawed.

Not only are any nuclear powered boats intrinsically risky if damaged, these are for the purpose of combat and so are by definition high risk of damage and destruction, causing long lasting leaking of radiation into the environment.

I would also like to endorse the open letter published in the Australian Financial Review and signed by many eminent Australians calling for a parliamentary enquiry into the AUKUS nuclear-powered submarine deal. There are many questions about what process led to the AUKUS agreement and the cost and other ramifications of it. We should have answers to our questions about such a significant agreement.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Kathryn James MBBS BSc(Med)