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13 January 2023

Committee Secretary,
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT, 2600

By email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Submission to the 2022 Senate Inquiry into Nuclear Power

Dear members of the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee,

There is now widespread support to move the world towards a decarbonised energy economy. However, if Australia's living standards are to be preserved and our electricity costs lowered and made more competitive, the only low-cost, low-carbon emitting electricity generation technology is nuclear.

An often-cited criticism of nuclear power is that it is too expensive. For example, Treasurer Chalmers was quoted in June 2022 as follows: "The reason that I am not keen on nuclear energy for Australia is because the economics don't stack up..." (SkyNews, 8 June 2022).

A major justification for this position is the GenCost report which is an annual process undertaken by the CSIRO and the Australian Energy Market Operator of calculating and publishing costs of building a range of new electricity generation and storage technologies. Its most recent iteration in July 2022 is "GenCost 2021-22 Final report" (**GenCost22**).

In September 2022, the Energy Policy Institute of Australia published paper 3/2022 "Future Australian Electricity Generation Costs - A Review of CSIRO's GenCost 2021-22 Report" (**EPIA Paper**).

I was author of the EPIA Paper (a copy attached).

One of the major conclusions of the EPIA Paper is that the GenCost22 capital cost estimates for nuclear SMRs are outdated and significantly overstated (see section 4.2, pages 12 – 14).

In view of this, nuclear power could facilitate Australia's energy transition at least cost when an objective analysis is undertaken of the latest costs.

Indeed, unless the prohibition on nuclear power is lifted, developers will never be given the incentive to bring forward nuclear power projects in Australia. You should let the market decide.

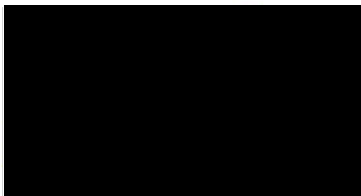


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I urge all politicians and political parties to focus on the transition to a low-carbon economy. To lower Australia's electricity costs in this process and make Australia more competitive, nuclear power projects must be allowed to develop. By so doing, Australia's living standards can be maintained which will engender support for the transition in the Australian community.

Yours sincerely

Australian Resources Development Pty Ltd



David Carland
Executive Director