

Dear Committee

I am deeply concerned about the proposed Removing Nuclear Energy Prohibitions Bill

Australia needs effective climate action but nuclear power would slow the transition to a low-carbon economy. It would increase electricity costs and unnecessarily introduce the challenges and risks associated with high-level nuclear waste management and the potential for catastrophic accidents, with profound intergenerational implications for Australians.

My concerns as an Australian citizen are that:

Nuclear is the most expensive energy option.

Nuclear is slow. It can take decades to build and would require a decade or more to develop the legislative framework.

Nuclear is dangerous. Either through human error, disaster, or as a military target the catastrophic consequences of a nuclear disaster would permanently pollute.

Nuclear is unwanted. There is long standing popular opposition to nuclear power in Australia because of the issues above as well as the unsolved problem of nuclear waste and the link to nuclear weapons.

Alternatives like renewables, storage and energy efficiency are faster, cheaper, more deployable and enjoy much more public support

I trust the Inquiry will act in the immediate and long-term interests of all Australians...and of the planet.

Yours sincerely

George W Burns

Adjunct Professor of Psychology
Clinical Psychologist
Author 8 books

www.georgeburns.com.au

[Redacted signature block]