

SUBMISSION RE NUCLEAR POWER IN AUSTRALIA

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For several reasons, nuclear power is inappropriate for Australia. These are as follows.

Since 2010, nuclear power has actually become more expensive, rising in cost by 33%.

Nuclear power reactors produce waste, and Australia does not have a deep underground repository for nuclear waste. At present, the residents of Kimba, South Australia, are engaged in a legal battle with the Commonwealth of Australia, as they fight to protect their home from becoming a dumping ground for nuclear waste generated in New South Wales.

The development of nuclear power is very time-consuming, and Australia lacks a workforce with the necessary skills to do this.

Thus nuclear power is expensive, polluting, and too slow to be of any use to Australians.

Furthermore, nuclear power plants are rendered unsafe by the effects of climate change. These effects include warming water sources, sea-level rise, storm damage, and drought. In military and terrorist events, nuclear power plants are obvious targets, as malicious forces seek to cut off electricity supplies. In addition, the electricity necessary to cool such reactors is also disrupted, and the risk of nuclear core meltdowns increased. We are seeing this now in Ukraine, as Russia directs missile strikes at Ukrainian nuclear power plants. Even in peacetime, risks are present, as demonstrated by the tragic nuclear meltdown and waste spill in Fukushima, Japan, which has rendered surrounding areas uninhabitable.

Thus nuclear power is expensive, polluting, slow in availability, and very risky with regard to national security. I urge politicians to support renewable energy, in order to protect the environment, and prevent further climate disruption.

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