

To:
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communication
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

THIS SUBMISSION SUPPORTS THE NEED TO AMEND:

THE AUSTRALIAN RADIATION PROTECTION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY ACT 1998 TO REMOVE THE PROHIBITION ON THE CONSTRUCTION OR OPERATION OF CERTAIN NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS; and ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT 1999 TO REMOVE THE PROHIBITION ON THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WATER DECLARING, APPROVING OR CONSIDERING ACTIONS RELATING TO THE CONSTRUCTION OR OPERATION OF CERTAIN NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS: THE ALP GOVERNMENT CANNOT HAVE IT BOTH WAYS – ALP HYPOCRISY IS NOT ACCEPTABLE

1. The present position of the ALP Government under Albanese and their stubborn, blanket refusal to give consideration to the use of nuclear power in Australia is indicative of rank amateurism, and hypocrisy. Chris Bowen keeps bleating that ‘we must bring carbon emissions down’. His attitude to ‘bringing down carbon emissions’ is simply not believable and, even worse, is hypocritical because it is untenable for Chris Bowen to state that Australia wants to bring carbon emissions down while we continue to export huge amounts of coal to China. So the Government is shooting itself in the foot on this argument.
2. Albanese also has himself stated categorically that “nuclear” is not an option in Australia. But we already have Lucas Heights and Albanese supports AUKUS and wants nuclear submarines for Australia and is happy for the Americans to have US nuclear submarines in Australian waters. So he has no objection to nuclear power in these instances. This inconsistent, hypocritical stance is not helpful.
3. Chris Bowen inspires no confidence in the Government’s position. He keeps parroting the mantra “Nuclear is too expensive” like a ventriloquist’s dummy. He has said this over and over and over again. But where is the evidence? He hasn’t given any. That is simply not good enough on Chris Bowen’s part. Chris Bowen needs to give the Australian

people the evidence on which he bases his viewpoint. If he can't do that then he shouldn't say anything at all. This repetitious ventriloquist's dummy performance discredits the Government position and cannot be taken seriously at all. It smacks of ignorance.

4. It is clear that the present Government has not in any way made a thorough assessment of the option of using nuclear power to help provide the baseload power that an economy and a society like Australia needs. So there is great concern that the Government is not doing its job in ensuring that base load power. Wind and solar are not reliable for base load power and the technology for more efficient batteries to store power from renewables has not yet been invented. Battery storage from solar power is presently not an option for securing base load power.
5. The Albanese Government glibly tells the Australian public that "we will have to rewire the Grid". Really? Really? Really????? At what cost???? One of the figures bandied about for this "grand scheme" has been 5 billion dollars. Shades of the NBN – a monumental, and very expensive blunder and a disruption to the smooth running of our lives when this essential service was turned upside down. So is this 5 billion estimate another "back of the envelope calculation" a la Kevin Rudd? Show us an official costing – no more back of the envelope "calculations" please!

MAIN CONSIDERATION

When there is a problem the Government is expected to consider all options as to how to solve that problem. On the subject of base load power the Albanese Government has not done this. **The question of ensuring base load power is critical to our future development and prosperity.** Albanese needs to take the reins from Chris Bowen as Bowen simply is not up to the job of organising an extensive round table discussion where ALL views are represented. The South Australian Premier Malinauskas has the right idea when he states that we need "evidence-based discussion", not Chris Bowen's political dogma. If we don't have this debate and discussion about all options for securing base load power including nuclear, then we, as a country, are being expected to deal with this problem of "reducing carbon emissions and securing the power supply" with one hand tied behind our backs. That is just plain ridiculous. I don't know why Chris Bowen thinks he can foist his half-baked ideas onto the Australian public.

CONCLUSION

1. To bring this issue **of securing the power supply now and for the future to a workable conclusion** we need a full discussion of all the options at our disposal and that includes nuclear.
2. Chris Bowen is not across his brief. He needs to lift his game or hand this issue over to someone who is able to facilitate a full, evidence-based discussion led by knowledgeable scientists, by experts in this very specialised field. Chris Bowen is not one of these experts. Neither am I but at least I know that. Chris Bowen needs to stop playing politics and look at the scientific facts and present those facts to the Australian people. He should already have done that but he hasn't bothered. He has been trying to skate through on ventriloquist dummy pantomime.
3. We are tired of the authoritarian intransigence of the Government in its hypocritical refusal to consider nuclear power as part of the energy mix.
4. Finally, there is also the question of Australia's sovereignty to consider. The push for renewables is coming very much from global big business and big banks (oh, and Royalty) which, obviously, are based overseas. Following on the heels of the COVID experience, we are very tired of the "top-down, authoritarian overseas influence", especially after the way our well-thought-out Australian plans for dealing with a pandemic were unceremoniously dumped and replaced with 'the overseas model' of lockdowns which turned out to be hideously and unnecessarily destructive and expensive. Trashing coal as part of the energy mix is likewise destructive and expensive. Leaving the nuclear option out could prove to be a disaster for this country. So the Government needs to tread carefully as we are very tired of the overseas controlled puppet show that that seems to have become the model for the leadership of the two main parties in politics in Australia today.

SUBMISSION FROM:

Hazel Kleinau, [REDACTED], Karana Downs, Q4306

Tel: [REDACTED]