

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Phone: [+61 2 6277 3526](tel:+61262773526)
ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Nuclear Prohibitions Bill.

The Australian Government make very bold statements about the intent to achieve carbon neutral status. I therefore recommend that it take equally bold action to make the appropriate changes that will allow Nuclear Energy Generating Works to be considered as having the potential to play a significant role in the means by which to achieve their commitment.

I not only support changes to the current Nuclear Prohibitions Bill the allow a capacity to use nuclear energy in electricity generating works, but encourage the changes so as to allow nuclear in electricity generation works to be considered as a viable option.

The Australian Government has made some profound commitments to reduction of carbon emissions in Australia. They embark on a bold mission to reduce carbon emissions, but have not given due consideration as to how to maintain the energy needs of the continent, for our daily energy needs as individuals, for our personnel, for our energy needs, for the industrial sector, for a manufacturing sector, for the communications sector nor the energy needs of the emerging, highly promoted, Electric Vehicle and transport sector.

It is ludicrous to say we are reducing coal fired or gas fired EGW, while ever we sell that gas and coal product into other economies where we have no control of, nor accept any accountability for, the emissions the product emits into that environment.

Our government has put preliminary subsidies in place to encourage the establishment of rooftop solar Electricity Generating Works (EGW) with great success. Surprisingly there has never been an equivalent round of encouragement nor subsidy offered for rooftop/ backyard wind generation although the technology exists and I imagine the uptake could be of a similar or greater scale.

The result is that together with the emergence of Large Scale Wind EGW and Large Scale Solar EGW the traditional suppliers of mainstream energy requirements, our coal fired EGW have found difficulty in balancing their budget as alternate EGW dominate some portions of the day – yet they are required to generate “Base Load Power” or “spinning reserve” for which there is no market, so as to supply into the energy market, at short notice, when the sun doesn’t shine and the wind doesn’t blow. Sufficient capacity to meet the demand without coal and gas is not yet even proposed, not approved, not established and not in production and nuclear is not even able to be considered as a potential viable option in Australia as it has and is being considered in other countries.

There is a solution in altering the preparedness of the Australian Government, on behalf of the Australian people, to allow and enable the use of nuclear EGW in Australia. Even now it is late in the day for guaranteeing rapid energy solutions but there are problems with the enormity of the scale of the build to transition to all renewable EGW.

Forgotten are the competing interests of land use. Forgotten is the environmental consequence of mining to manufacture EGW equipment, forgotten are the carbon emissions required to establish, operate and maintain the network of Renewable EGW, forgotten is the disposal of end of life for renewable EGW components and end of life EGW plants, forgotten is the cumulative impact of the scale of EGW required to implement enough EGW to meet anywhere near the need, nor the timeframe to establish it. Forgotten also is the amount of Australian Government

Subsidy and business profit being sent off shore in the establishment and operation of the proposed renewable EGW, nor do we remember to consider the environmental destruction and cost of human slave labour entwined in the resourcing and manufacture of mined, transported, imported, freighted, renewable EGW plants and equipment.

The nuclear EGW proposal may have the capacity to fulfil Australian energy needs for thousands of years when pursued to its fullest capacity. As an industry worthy of consideration it could potentially require fewer mining operations, require less environmental destruction, less conflicting agricultural and environmental land use, without significant carbon emissions and emitting no air pollution. Overall the potential nuclear EGW impact on the environment could be less than any of the alternatives, being capable of recycling its own waste, utilising 'fast reactor' technology.

The world will remember the 2 big nuclear incidents. They have resulted in significant self-examination within the industry and subsequent improvements and developments. Do we however remember the Hydro EGW dam disaster that killed more humans and caused more damage than both Chernobyl and Fukushima together? In 1975 the Banqian Dam failure killed 26,000 dead from flooding, 145,000 dead from subsequent famine and epidemics, 11 million homeless and loss of a generation, when that dam failed by overtopping in a 1-in-2,000 year typhoon induced flood in China.

Therefore, the means by which to achieve the government's goal, must take into consideration multiple factors. It will take political will, even political clout. It will take self-examination to adjust and adapt Australian law to allow and enable Australia to progress toward the desire for carbon neutrality in an achievable, sustainable way.

Closer examination of world energy provision, energy price structure, energy sustainability and energy guarantee will support the concept of the potential for nuclear EGW to be considered for Australia, potentially utilising our own resources and with the potential of being more self-sufficient and self-reliant.

There is an urgency to meet the short term demand for energy supply which could be met if the Australian government were to subsidise the renovation of the coal fired EGW and add the capacity for gas fired EGW which can respond to immediate need within a short time frame, (rather than having to manufacture surplus energy at times when it is unsaleable/ unprofitable) as a short term fix, buying time for consideration of more permanent solutions to be implemented. Short term gas and coal renovation can be more achievable and more enduring, than current plans to clothe our best agricultural land in turbines, panels and entwine the whole the Australian countryside in a mesh of transmission pylons and wires to deliver short term, foreign owned, foreign resourced, unsustainable and unethical renewable EGW.

In the search for responsible energy development for Australia I urge you to make the appropriate adjustments to the provisions enshrined in law to allow for Nuclear Electricity Generating Works to be at least assessed and considered for their viability as a serious option.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Beth White

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Ben Lomond NSW 2365

Dated 09 01 2023
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