

Serious Blue Sky for Your Bottom Line

To: Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications

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Friday, 13 January 2023

SUBJECT: Environment and Other Legislation Amendment (Removing Nuclear Energy Prohibitions) Bill 2022

Dear Secretary,

This submission is in support of removing nuclear prohibitions.

I am a 65 year old professional engineer, managing two engineering project companies, both having separate substantial R&D entities. My background is in medium and heavy industry, where I have held lead roles since my mid 20's. Built a lot of 'stuff', and pioneered many world firsts since then.

We live in a society that has been romanced by the notion that greenhouse gasses are the biggest threat we have ever faced, and we are charging headlong down a path that CANNOT work in our now-haste to try and fix it. Whilst we are stuck with these notions for a while, they are only making the problems worse, as we are many years off recouping the carbon sink it is taking to make all these 'wonderful' things happen. It is foolishness in the extreme, but what else is there? Nuclear!

We need to change our trajectory to something that stands a chance of working in the medium to long term. Modular nuclear reactors is the only technology presently available that stands a good prospect of making a sustainable difference.

This is 'total of the tape' territory. The costs of making lots of solar, wind and batteries, from a finite mineral resource that we cannot possibly liberate at the required rate, and putting it into things that will be lucky to last 30 years, and are really hard to recycle, are extreme. How irresponsible is that?

And the supposed hydrogen nirvana? Which is only converting fossil fuel energy into a form it can be ubiquitously distributed, without the need for so much electrical transmission infrastructure. A 'win' to be sure, but not without a massive hit to both commercial and environmental bottom lines.

Nuclear technology has gone well past the old paradigms of being too expensive / dangerous and is the only tech that stands a decent prospect of delivering power in the long term, without regular massive additional costs (\$ & C) to keep it going. Also it is viable, as the projections for expiry of this resource are well past the sorts of timeframes where things like the fledgling fusion work (seeing recent success) should pay dividends, and we can make millennia's worth of power. We need a bridge to get there, and modular nuclear is the only one presenting as viable for our timeframes and having the mineral resources capacity to deliver.

The above is just basic logic, looking at the facts, and the adults in the room are increasingly standing up and making these points. Whilst politically, Australia is chasing a hydrogen king-pin role, which may work for some, for a while, it would be far smarter to tap into and encourage a nuclear technology Centre of Excellence mindset, and formally and actively attract offshore resources to make Australia home and support it.



The proposed legislation should go a long way from the (very useful) step to remove barriers. It needs to empower statutory authorities to aggressively pursue the development and uptake of nuclear technology in world's best practice ways, and to become a global leader in the industry.

We are the undisputable global leaders in coal technology now. We can do the same with nuclear. Let's get cracking then; get this thing done, and done well, you know you want to!

Please contact me as per below, via email to [REDACTED], or on mobile ph: [REDACTED] should you require any further information. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

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Director of Engineering and Projects

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