

**Submission
No 7**

INQUIRY INTO URANIUM MINING AND NUCLEAR FACILITIES (PROHIBITIONS) REPEAL BILL 2019

Organisation: Energy Policy Institute of Australia

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INTRODUCTION

The Energy Policy Institute of Australia (EPIA), an independent, apolitical energy policy body, seeks to make the identical submission set out below to:

(1) The Australian Senate's Inquiry into the Coal-Fired Power Funding Prohibition Bill 2017 ('Commonwealth Coal-Fired Power Prohibition Bill') and

(2) The New South Wales Legislative Council's Inquiry into the Uranium Mining and Nuclear Facilities (Prohibition) Bill ('NSW Uranium Mining and Nuclear Repeal Bill').

Both bills are concerned with discriminatory and politically-motivated policy, the first with a Greens Party proposal at Commonwealth level to discriminate against coal-fired power generation and the second with a One Nation Party proposal at State level in New South Wales to remove a longstanding discriminatory prohibition against nuclear power generation.

SUBMISSION

- i. As Australia's energy sector seeks to respond to the challenges of the global transition to a decarbonised world, EPIA considers that an overall policy of technology neutrality is essential to underpin long-term investment.**
- ii. With specific regard to innovation, EPIA considers that such a policy is imperative for efficient investment.**
- iii. EPIA warmly welcomes renewable energy power generation to a level that does not impair system stability.**
- iv. EPIA warns however that it could be economically suicidal for the national and state economies if the existing coal-fired or gas-fired generation fleets in the National Electricity Market were to close down prematurely and cause electricity demand curtailment. A reliable, fully-functioning power system that is able to balance supply and demand continuously is indispensable for the welfare of the community. Surely this is something on which virtually the entire community should agree.**

v. EPIA considers that a ban against any technology, renewable or non-renewable, will lead to distortions in the overall power system in any or all of the following respects:

- **by reducing technology diversity**
- **by reducing the level of competition in operations**
- **by reducing the level of competition between new projects**
- **by increasing the weather-dependency of the overall system**
- **by destabilising the system itself**
- **by increasing price volatility and investment risk premia**
- **by reducing investor confidence and**
- **by leading to increased prices for consumers.**

For the above reasons, EPIA:

(1) strongly opposes the Commonwealth Coal-Fired Power Prohibition Bill and

(2) strongly supports the NSW Uranium and Nuclear Repeal Bill.

This submission does not reflect the official or unofficial position of individual EPIA members.

Respectfully submitted.

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Executive Director
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