

**Submission
No 41**

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

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The future of clean energy is emission-free and waste-free technologies such as wind, solar, geothermal and hydro. Biomass is unsuitable for this category as it uses combustion and therefore is not clean -- obviously it creates emissions. Nuclear power creates nuclear waste and is therefore not clean. Nor is nuclear power renewable and it is certainly not carbon neutral. When you look at the whole cycle of nuclear, it requires a great deal of fossil fuels -- first to be extracted from the ground, then to be transported and again to be refined. And nuclear power stations require fossil fuels to be built. So it is a complete lie that nuclear power is carbon neutral. It is a technology that has no place in the clean, renewable, zero waste energy of the future.

Finally, the increasingly affordable, relatively simple alternatives have rendered nuclear power economically obsolete. With an increasingly erratic climate, events such as the tsunami that caused the triple meltdown at Fukushima will be more likely. The Japanese now face the problem of disposing of a growing amount of contaminated water. Robots cannot begin to get near the melted cores to attempt to clean up.

Terrorism also should be taken into account re: the vulnerability of nuclear power stations from air attack. Another negative factor about nuclear energy is that it requires so much water at various stages of the production cycle. In a dry continent like Australia, solar power makes sense. There is no solution to the problem of nuclear waste. It leaves a problem future generations must cope with -- for thousands of years. Please listen to our indigenous people.

yours sincerely,

Jean Nichten