

Submission
No 57

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Dear Standing Committee on State Development,

Currently the economics of producing nuclear energy for the electricity grid is not viable. Even if it was there are significant issues that should eliminate any proposal to advance the implementation of this type of power.

DISASTERS

There are numerous examples demonstrating the disasterous effects of a nuclear problem; not only the immediate effect for the surrounding population but also long-term environmental implications and the long-term impact on the economic viability and industry of the surrounding area and peoples. Chernobyl (Russia), Fukushima (Japan), Saint Laurent (France) and Tokamuru (Japan) are clear examples of long-run impacts across all of these areas of life and, particularly in the case of Fukushima) extend beyond State boundaries.

WASTE

There are wishy-washy definitions of waste levels which means that Governments could and probably would hide or cover up real levels of waste and what constitutes waste and the impact of waste on surrounding areas.

Currently secrecy surrounds the location of waste storage facilities despite the Government (through the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility) identifying possible sites for permanent disposal no decision has been made.

There is undue pressure on residents in some areas to accept a nuclear dump in their location. Also there is an issue of transporting this waste through other centres between nuclear power facilities (currently all offshore) and nuclear waste dumps.

No other country wishes to accept Australia's current nuclear waste.

Would those proposing the implementation of nuclear power:

1. Want the nuclear reactor located within, say, a 1 kilometre radius of their home or family?
2. Want the nuclear waste disposal facility within, say, a 1 kilometre radius of their home or family?

I think not.

Politicians live in a bubble in Macquarie Street, particularly those of the Legislative Council. Far more frequently subjected to the hospitality and lobbying of vested industry interests than to the hopes and dreams of the communities over which they preside. The problems associated with living in that type of bubble include a disconnection from the communities Members are elected to represent in favour of the voices heard more frequently from those with the power, the time and the money to spend significant resources lobbying Members for decisions to better their financial and cultural positions.

I fear for the long-term safety of communities subjected to nuclear power, in whichever form it might take.

I also fear that our Indigenous peoples will, once again, be scapegoats or be compelled to sell out to become the dumping ground for nuclear disposal at a rate significantly lower than would be an equitable outcome for those peoples. To have been dispossessed of their country, then

reunited with it after significant struggle and great expense through both protest and courts and then to be dispossessed again because of political pressure which will then render that country inaccessible, not unlike the current state of Woomera.

There is too much secrecy and too much risk involved to make nuclear power a feasible option for Australia, let alone New South Wales.

Sincerely,