

**Submission
No 66**

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

Organisation: Electrical Trades Union

Date Received: 24 October 2019



23 October 2019

Standing Committee on State Development

Via Email: State.Development@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Attention Committee Members

ETU Submission - Inquiry into the Uranium Mining and Nuclear Facilities (Prohibitions) Repeal Bill 2019.

1. On Wednesday 9 October 2019 the ETU appeared before the Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into the prerequisites for nuclear energy in Australia.
2. The ETU is a signatory to the joint civil society statement opposing nuclear power, available here: https://www.acf.org.au/wide_community_opposition_to_nuclear_power
3. The ETU is aware of and supports the submission by the Maritime Union of Australia to the inquiry and endorse their recommendation to the Committee the joint submission to this Inquiry of the Friends of the Earth Australia, The Australian Conservation Foundation, and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW. The Committee should also call them as witnesses. For decades these organisations have played a key role in working with affected communities and key stakeholders, and in supporting people in remote Aboriginal communities dealing with the immediate impacts of uranium mining and potential impacts of the storage of nuclear waste.
4. We attach our recent submission to the Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into the prerequisites for nuclear energy in Australia and submit that the information, arguments and recommendations contained within that submission are relevant to this inquiry and should be considered by the committee.
5. In addition to the recommendations contained within that submission, we further recommend to this committee;
 - a. That the current ban on uranium mining in NSW should be retained and provisions to ban prospecting/exploration should be added to that legislation.
 - b. That the Committee recommend to the NSW government and parliament that the Uranium Mining and Nuclear Facilities (Prohibitions) Act should be amended to provide some protection against any future attempt by the Commonwealth to impose a new national nuclear waste facility in NSW.

- c. That the Committee recommend to the NSW Government to call on the Australian government ratify the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, or at least stop blocking its global progress.
 - d. Any energy transition must include a Just Transition of the workforce and communities, including a job guarantee for workers, substantial community investment, and the establishment of a Transition Authority similar to the Qld Just Transition Group is a priority.
 - e. The committee recommend to the NSW Government that the transition to renewable energy, the variability of renewable energy, and the price of electricity for consumers would be better managed with a much stronger and more coordinated government role in planning, investment and direct ownership of the energy system, including investments in energy generation, storage and an improved system of interconnectors and transmission.
 - f. The Inquiry must acknowledge that corporatisation, fragmentation, privatisation, and the introduction of a National Electricity Market with no decarbonisation target has introduced significant obstacles to the planning and building of a decarbonised electricity system.
 - g. The NSW government should establish a renewable energy company, similar to the CleanCo renewable energy company that has been established by the Queensland government with a mandate to ensure a majority of renewable energy deployment in NSW is publicly owned and controlled.
 - h. That the Parliamentary Research Service update the Issues Paper produced for this Inquiry to better reflect the availability of renewable energy resources in NSW, particularly offshore wind.
 - i. That the NSW Government in conjunction with the Federal Government explore improvements to the Lucas Heights facilities including funding the required capital works required for safer long-term storage of nuclear waste in situ.
6. If the ETU can be of further assistance to the committee please don't hesitate to contact ETU National Policy Officer Trevor Gauld .

Yours sincerely,

Allen Hicks
National Secretary
Electrical Trades Union