



VALLEY ALLIANCE

Our Homes, Land, Community & Future

Tim White
President
Valley Alliance NSW

15 November, 2024

Committee Members and Secretariat
House Select Committee on Nuclear Energy
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**Please find following our submission to the
Inquiry Into Nuclear Power Generation in Australia**

Tim White, President, Valley Alliance NSW write this submission in support of nuclear power generation in Australia.

We support nuclear electricity generation by large and small reactors for the following reasons:

- Small footprint
- Can be positioned in already designated power generation locations such as Liddell/Bayswater near Muswellbrook, where infrastructure and workforce already exist
- Hundreds of kilometres of new transmission lines will not be required
- Rural landholders will not have their properties compulsory acquired for transmission line construction
- No emissions
- Proven technology
- 24/7 reliable electricity generation
- Not weather dependant
- Safety of nuclear facilities are heavily regulated by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) and international organisations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- Nuclear industry provides enormous employment opportunities with many skilled personnel in the mining industry able to easily transfer their skills to nuclear power generation
- Nuclear reactors can be constructed on average in 7 years
- Nuclear reactors can remain in operation for 70 years and re-fitted
- Nuclear is cost effective
- Over 50 countries in the world currently use nuclear electricity generation – these include first world countries such as Germany, France, America, Sweden just to name a few
- Australia has its own nuclear research facility sited in Sydney, operational for 66 years without incident
- There are currently 440 nuclear power reactors operating throughout the world generating electricity
- Australia has 33% of the world's uranium supplies
- Approximately 97% of nuclear fuel waste can be recycled – plutonium and uranium are extracted, mixed with fresh uranium for new fuel rods. Countries such as Germany, Belgium, France and Russia are countries where this is carried out.

On the other hand, renewable energy generation by wind, solar and batteries:

- Large footprint, covering thousands of hectares of mostly agricultural land in high rainfall areas
- Enormous waste produced from massive projects ie 300 metre wind turbines, thousands of hectares of solar panels, batteries, cabling and associated infrastructure
- Short project life span
- Requires the ruination of landscapes and destruction of views
- Land clearing of previously untouched areas ie mountain ranges for wind turbines
- Waste mostly unmanageable – wind tower blades dumped and buried en masse
- High environmental impact. Destruction of rare and endangered animals natural habitats.
- Massive impact to farming businesses and communities during the build phase. Farming businesses will be interrupted for a minimum of 5 years (HVTL build timetable)
- Increased risk of Bushfires on farming businesses and communities.
- Large amounts of energy required to recycle
- Intermittent power generation
- weather dependent power generation

- unreliable power generation
- Extremely expensive as evidenced by a report titled “Developing a base case to assess the relative costs of nuclear power in the NEM” by energy experts, Frontier Economics, found renewables will cost \$642 BILLION DOLLARS, not \$122 billion (front page Daily Telegraph 15.11.24).

Australia has 3 uranium mines and all uranium extracted is exported for other countries to use. Australia looks foolish by supporting an industry they deem too dangerous for themselves.

Australia should embrace nuclear power generation, build reactors small and large as soon as possible, joining the 50 countries currently operating 440 reactors 24/7.