To: Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN);
Subject: Nuclear Wast Site at Muckaty, W.A.
Date: Sunday, 7 March 2010 5:56:04 PM

Dear Sirs,

Each State should look after its own waste generation. If people want irons and ovens and T.V.s and all the other electrical consuming devices then they have to be responsible for their own waste and not dump it on others. It would be highly appropriate to store it within the bounds of each state's capital's C.B. D. under a building away from ground water tables and underground seepage flows etc. this is appropriate and fare since this is where most of the power will be consumed. If it is safe then there should be no problem storing the waste this way. After all it is safe isn't it!

Personally I am at a loss to see how nuclear power is going to be more reliable than the Sun especially considering Australia has so much sunlight. Think on this for a moment: SUNLIGHT is our most plentiful resource not coal. There is enough sunlight reaching our county that we can convert to power, using today's technology, to power the whole world. The question to ask why bother with nuclear, or with coal for that matter? I know; its all about base load delivery, but it must not be obvious to some people that its not cloudy all over the county all at the same time nor all the time. It is only cloudy in some places some of the time. Because of this I suggest to build cluster arrangement of solar stations laced across the county, together these stations would create an averaging effect of deliverable power, in effect producing a strong base load deliverable to the majors.

There too is the continual mounting costs of storage and security of the waste site and nuclear power plants from the environment and non-friendlies. In ongoing cost terms you are backing a looser here and I would have thought the public purse deserves greater care and prudence than is presently been given.

My suggestion is, since the government has this money to spend then lets have the government put that money into building a publicly owned solar power plant of the form of a laced network across the county that directly delivers electricity to essential services thus keeping the cost of delivery down way from private companies and or corporations. They may even have enough to wisely invest into R & D for solar and hot rock powering technologies.

The people of this land today and tomorrow need plans that will stand the test of time.

Who is driving this anyway?

It is almost impossible to discuss the waste disposal without discussing nuclear power generation because they are coupled. Up top I have given my answer to the storage side (Store it in the C.B.D.'s) but lets look a bit closer to see what is going on.

This is what I foresee should nuclear power be employed:

The reason for the need for nuclear power is to award funds to certain overseas companies to build the facilities and supply the technology, off the shelf stuff, and the spin-off for the government is it would be able to boast about how many more jobs have been created, how its brought and employed leading technology (that would be highly questionable) into Australia, PLUS at the start it would hand to a few mining companies a lucrative opportunity to mine and open up the export of uranium. It would be obligatory because of the cost of mining and production needs to addressed, and this would inturn open other doors for other companies to be granted licenses to mine and export because of competition laws requiring open market competition. You can include overseas companies in this esp. CHINA. PLUS there would have to be the question of enrichment. Australia would have to have its enrichment plant delivered and then there would be the opportunity for the on-sale of enriched uranium and this would open other doors for more applications for uranium mining and enrichment to be granted.

Its a clever cascading business plan that suits the status quo (i.e. meeting the Business as usual model) but how does it meet the immediate and long term needs of Australian Citizens.

Up front Costs, ongoing costs, ongoing costs of safe waste storage, risks, cost of accidents, and how does it help meet our green house gas emission targets today and into the future?

It is true to say nuclear power tech has come along way, so too has Solar and Hot Rocks. hear is the upshot Solar and Hot Rocks have come a long way on much smaller budgets. So the justification of employing nuclear is all the more....."A Blank" (Incongruent Argument. Does not add up)

I know which technology I would go for; - Solar and Hot Rocks.

To be clear the government has embarked on a highly unconscionable course in an attempt to do business with known industries, it is attempting to provide more for the wishes of certain businesses than it is for planning for the needs of Australian Citizens.

Yours faithfully,

Rob Henderson-Hare