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**From:** Ilona Renwick  
**Sent:** Friday, 7 October 2005 9:22 AM  
**To:** Committee, ISR (REPS)  
**Subject:** Inquiry into developing Australia's non-fossil fuel energy industry

7th October 2005

Committee Members,  
Australian Government.

Dear Members,

Instead of rushing into nuclear energy as an alternate to our existing main energy suppliers why not consider another huge and cleaner existing resource.

I am writing to discover if you are aware of a recently tested new energy resource beneath the Cooper gas basin in Central Australia - the huge geothermal (hot dry rock - HDR) reserves. Reserves are also known to be in the Hunter Valley in NSW.

HDR geothermal energy is produced using heat extracted from buried hot granites by circulating waters through an engineered, artificial reservoir or underground heat exchanger. These hot granites represent a massive source of renewable energy, free from CO2 emissions.

The development of HDR geothermal energy relies on existing technologies. HDR geothermal projects are currently underway in France, Switzerland, Germany, California and Japan. Australia has a recognised potential for the development of HDR geothermal energy.

On checking the internet I discovered there is an existing Australian company Geodynamics Limited that has already started work towards on-line energy production with \$5 million R & D grant from the Commonwealth Government several years ago.

It promises to deliver base-load electrical power with zero emissions to all Australian consumers for 70 years.

Modelled costs are similar to those for coal and gas, and much cheaper than for nuclear, solar and wind.

This source would initially take up the growing demand for electricity before phasing out coal-fired power stations altogether.

It's time to give geothermal its due and proper support from the \$500 million Low Emission Technology Fund.

What is the Federal Government's position on this clean energy resource?

It seems to me this is the alternative to nuclear energy that should be given a real chance to succeed. And the company is already working towards being a supplier to our electricity grid.

Please consider my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Hona Renwick