

Submission to the House of Representatives: Inquiry into the development of the non-fossil fuel energy industry in Australia: Case study into the strategic importance of Australia's uranium resources

I am against Australia further developing its uranium resources because I believe it is not in the long term best interest of the people of Australia or the World.

Currently, one only has to look at the position the United Kingdom is in with regard to its radioactive stockpiles to realise that the widespread use of uranium has been and is still a mistake of massive proportion.

Concerning the use of uranium, for example, there are/is:

1. huge associated costs, for example in,:
 - Exploring for uranium containing ore bodies
 - Mining uranium containing ore bodies
 - Transporting uranium containing ore
 - Refining uranium ore
 - Purifying uranium for fuel
 - Transporting purified uranium
 - Research into the construction and running of nuclear reactors
 - Constructing nuclear reactors
 - Running nuclear reactors
 - LONG TERM - until all the radioactive isotopes have fully decayed, and safe, storage of radioactive waste
 - Materials and energy used to complete the above points.
2. grave safety and public health implications associated with radioactivity
3. ongoing greenhouse gas emission on a large scale, produced in most stages listed in point 1.

Taking into consideration the true cost of providing energy derived from uranium, it is clear that uranium is prohibitively expensive to use. Greenhouse gas emissions resulting from mining and other activities essential for energy generation from uranium, help to nullify any greenhouse gas benefits associated this method of energy production. Rather than using uranium, truly renewable and safe energy options, for example: wind, wave, tidal or solar are the way of the future and should be pursued and used to the full.

The history of uranium's role in serious accidents and the long lasting legacies of these accidents are a stark reminder of why widespread uranium use should not be pursued in the future.

In summary, due to, the massive combined costs associated with uranium use, the extremely serious health and safety issues associated with radioactivity, and the fully sustainable and renewable energy options available to pursue, I believe it is not in any Australian's best interest to allow the further developing of our uranium resources.

Submitted by:

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