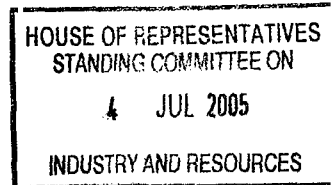


David Addison

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Industry and Resources
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
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To the Committee Chair

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the debate on nuclear energy in Australia.

My brief submission relates to the issue of risk. I am neither supportive nor opposed to the use of nuclear energy as a concept, as I do not have the requisite knowledge of the field to have an informed and definitive opinion. I do however have concerns based on what I have read and understand.

I appreciate that safety technology and procedures supportive nuclear energy has most likely improved over the last decade. At the same time I still believe that the potential damage of a nuclear accident and the release of radioactive materials are high enough in consequence for the burden of proof to be on those who advance nuclear energy as a solution to our energy requirements, rather than on those who oppose.

There are alternatives to nuclear energy that can assist in the move away from our reliance on fossil fuels. These include solar, wind, hydro and biomass power and energy efficiency measures. I realise these solution may form only part of the overall solution. However, before Australia begins to produce nuclear energy the nuclear energy sector must prove beyond reasonable doubt that nuclear power can be produced safely.

The other significant concern I have is the management of nuclear waster. To my mind this issue has not been addressed sufficiently by those who support nuclear energy. I think it would be extraordinarily irresponsible to implement a policy, which could damage the future for future generations, who have no say in the decision.

I hope my comments will be of some use to the committee

Yours truly,

David Addison