

Sent: Friday, 24 July 2009 5:05 PM
To: Economics, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Inquiry into the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Bill 2009 and a related bill

The Secretary
Senate Economics Legislation Committee

I propose that Electricity generated by Nuclear fuel should be included in the renewable Energy basket of technology as the most recent technology allows for recycling of the fuel multiple times making it a sustainable option. In addition as nuclear fission in the earths core is the source of geothermal energy there is no justification from excluding nuclear fission controlled on the surface by man.

Australia is in a unique position to capitalise on the climate change fears of the world by offering safe and controlled access to nuclear fuel to the world. By setting up a cradle to grave nuclear fuel supply of manufactured fuel rods and retrieving the used rods for reprocessing we can eliminate the opportunity for diversion of uranium to weapons and other programs. This would open up exports to China India and Iran with a reliable non political supply of fuel rods for peaceful energy generation helping to solve the peak oil, Carbon dioxide and nuclear proliferation issues in one go. All that is required is for the government to accept that the only proven low carbon large scale energy producer is nuclear. A properly regulated nuclear industry is very safe and provides clean low cost energy that can be managed to eliminate long life waste.

Recent developments have lead to improvements in the nuclear fuel cycle where it is now possible to re-process fuel and use what was previously long life waste as fuel in new reactor types. This has the double benefit of increasing the total energy available from existing uranium fuel and reducing the radioactive waste.

Australia is a large geologically and politically stable country that can safely provide this service and at the same time provide substantially greater export earnings all it requires is for the government to have a rational look at the nuclear issue and challenge the faith based anti nuclear lobby to look at the science and not the faith.

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