



Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Climate Action
Minister for Energy and Resources
Minister for the State Electricity Commission

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MIN-240201291

Robert McDonald
Clerk of the Legislative Council
Parliament House
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Dear Robert McDonald

Thank you for your correspondence of 6 February 2024 regarding the petition presented by David Limbrick, Member for South-Eastern Region, requesting that the Legislative Council vote in support of the Nuclear Energy (Prohibitions) Repeal Bill 2023.

I note that the effect of this Bill would be to repeal the *Nuclear Activities (Prohibitions) Act 1983* (NAPA). In particular, it would remove the current prohibition on nuclear power facilities in the state.

The Victorian Government supports the long-standing prohibitions as set out in the NAPA. As such, I respectfully decline to adopt the petition's request.

Nuclear energy is the most expensive form of new build energy and will take years to develop, if at all. No small modular nuclear reactors have made it past the trial phase. With our aging coal-fired power stations reaching retirement age, we must get on and deliver more replacement generation as quickly as possible.

Recent GenCost analysis by CSIRO and the Australian Energy Market Operator has once more demonstrated that renewables have the lowest cost range of any new-build energy technology, even when considering additional integration costs such as storage and transmission (<https://www.csiro.au/en/research/technology-space/energy/energy-data-modelling/gencost>).

The Victorian Government is strongly committed to achieving decarbonisation of our energy sector using cheaper renewable energy and storage. We are legislating renewable energy targets of 65% by 2030 and 95% of generation by 2035, as well as storage targets of at least 2.6 gigawatts of energy storage capacity by 2030 and 6.3 gigawatts by 2035.

It is also important to note that nuclear energy is also prohibited in Australia by the Commonwealth Government, mainly through the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the *Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998*.

Thank you for bringing this petition to my attention. In the face of this period of technological change in the energy sector, the Victorian Government is continuing to work towards delivering cheaper, more reliable renewable energy for Victoria.

Yours sincerely

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