

Dear Standing Committee on Environment and Planning,

Please accept this submission to the Victorian Parliament's Standing Committee on Environment and Planning 'Inquiry into nuclear prohibition'.

The debate about nuclear power is a dangerous distraction from the urgent progress that is desperately needed towards switching to using 100% renewable sources of energy as rapidly as possible. This is vital if we are to mitigate the more extreme manifestations of climate change. These are already becoming evident in the length and ferocity of our current bushfire season, and without a speedy change in our energy sources they can only get worse .

Rather than fuel carbon emissions and radioactive risk through domestic coal power plants and the export of coal and uranium, Australia is well placed to seize the initiative and become a driver of clean energy thinking and technology. Renewable energy is affordable, low risk, non-polluting, and popular.

Generating nuclear power, on the other hand, takes years to come to fruition, is very capital intensive, would use vast quantities of our precious water, produces highly dangerous and long-lived waste, and has the potential to be nothing short of catastrophic. Solar energy with battery storage is obviously a far safer, cleaner, and superior alternative. If we can also utilise wind power without killing birdlife, so much the better.

Yours sincerely,

Vivien Smith

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