



18th August 2006

Uranium Mining, Processing and Nuclear Energy Review Secretariat
c/- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
3-5 National Circuit
Barton ACT 2601

Email: umpner@pmc.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

ATA is a not-for-profit organisation established in 1980 to promote the uptake of sustainable technologies in order to protect our environment. The organisation provides service to over 3000 members, who are actively promoting sustainability in their own homes by using good building design and implementing water conservation and renewable energy technologies. ATA advocates in both the government and industry arena for ease of access and continual improvement of these technologies, as well as the production and promotion of information and products needed to change the way we live.

ATA welcomes the acknowledgement implicit in this Inquiry that human induced climate change is a significant threat to our species and the planet. The impact of climate change is now being widely observed. Deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions are now imperative, at a time when demand for energy – Australia's most significant source of greenhouse gas emissions – is booming.

However ATA believes that these dual objectives of deep cuts in emissions and long term energy security should not be achieved using nuclear energy. The solution instead is as follows:

Energy efficiency: ATA members have proven the effectiveness of energy efficiency measures; consuming less energy while maintaining comfortable standards of living. ATA has been involved in a wide variety of projects that demonstrate the vast opportunity for improving energy efficiency, using less electricity and producing less greenhouse gas emissions. There are also clear benefits to consumers and overall improvements in the efficiency of the Australian economy.

ATA experience illustrates the existence of a range of measures – both technological and behavioural - that can deliver significant improvements in energy efficiency. There are a number of barriers that remain that inhibit the uptake of cost effective and environmentally beneficial outcomes.

There are many international examples of countries that with the appropriate levels of government support have transformed their economies and delivered significant reductions in electricity consumption and greenhouse gas emissions as a result.

Renewable energy: ATA members have over many decades proven the capacity of a range of renewable energy technologies to satisfy energy needs.

The roofs of German and Japanese houses are crammed with Solar panels, maximising their solar potential. But Australia, with a vastly superior solar energy resource (not to mention worlds best wind,

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geothermal and ocean energy) has an embarrassingly limited uptake of solar PV. This inquiry must consider the immense untapped renewable energy resources that Australia could capitalise on, without the negative impacts that surround nuclear energy.

The Australian renewable energy industry has great potential that is at present being squandered due to a lack of government support. This capacity can and should be realised to overcome the challenges Australia faces, and all the while make a broader contribution to Australia's economic prosperity. Becoming a country globally recognised for a renewable energy is more inspiring than one famed for nuclear pollution.

ATA members have also been proud supporters of Green Power. This illustrates a willingness to pay for clean energy that should motivate government to act, now.

A combination of these two proven approaches can deliver on the energy needs of Australians in a carbon constrained future. It's a solution that can be delivered now, that won't take decades to develop and commission like nuclear energy will.

ATA believes in the principles of sustainable development. Leaving a legacy of nuclear waste to degrade the environment for millennia is a crime against future generations. It also constitutes a transfer of wealth away from future generations who will bare the economic and environmental costs for the waste of current generations should we pursue a nuclear future.

International installations of nuclear power have only occurred with massive investments of public money. If the financial and institutional capacity necessary to develop nuclear power was funnelled into the deployment of proven clean energy sources and energy efficiency, then the financial, technical and regulatory barriers that continue to challenge ATA's members from enjoying these solutions would be rapidly eroded.

ATA believes a nuclear powered Australia would bring shame for generations to come. Instead, imagine a future with energy efficient Australian homes powered by clean renewable energy.

That's something to truly inspire and bring national pride. It's a future ATA and its members believe is worth pursuing.

Kind regards,



Kate Allsopp
ATA CEO

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