



SMR Nuclear Technology Pty Ltd

Governor Macquarie Tower
Level 23, 1 Farrer Place
Sydney NSW 2000
ABN: 88 160 242 428
www.smrnuclear.com.au

Nuclear Fuel Cycle (Facilitation) Bill 2017

We are writing to express our support for this Bill. We suggest that the legislative prohibition of nuclear power plants in Australia was largely a response to the 1986 Chernobyl accident in the Ukraine. The prohibition had no effect on the electricity industry at the time as Australia had plentiful supplies of cheap coal.

The world is now a very different place from when the prohibition was put in place and we warmly encourage all Senators to vote in favour of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle (Facilitation) Bill.

We submit there are five compelling reasons to do so:

1. Greenhouse gas emissions are now recognised as a major concern and there is widespread public support for the reduction of emissions. Countries with low emission levels either have abundant supplies of hydro (for example, Norway) or have nuclear power as part of their energy mix (for example, France). Wind and solar can make a contribution but no country with an industrial demand for electricity relies on these intermittent sources.
2. Nuclear power remains one of the world's major energy sources: in Europe last year, more power was generated by nuclear than by any other technology.
3. Alone, modern small modular reactors (SMRs) could supply all of Australia's needs for reliable, low-emissions, affordable energy. SMRs are especially suitable for Australian conditions: they are inherently safe, and would have survived a Fukushima-style accident.
4. Australia has a world class nuclear regulator (ARPANSA) who can ensure that any nuclear reactor will be built and operated to the latest international standards.
5. There is bipartisan support for "technology neutrality" in energy policy. This policy cannot be effective whilst nuclear remains arbitrarily prohibited.

Passing the Bill will not mean that nuclear power plants will be built in Australia, but it will enable nuclear to be considered on its merits and not arbitrarily prohibited. No other major country prohibits nuclear power.