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‘Net zero’ emissions target can be realised.

Thanks to the recent recommendations of a Commonwealth Parliamentary Committee, Australian consultancy SMR Nuclear Technology Pty Ltd (SMR-NT) believes that lifting Australia’s nuclear ban would bring the global ‘net zero’ emissions target closer to realisation.

Consultancy chairman Robert Pritchard praised the report of the Clean Energy Ministerial Conference in July 2019 that co-locating nuclear and renewable energy in “energy parks” could provide a triple benefit of electricity, heat, and steam that in turn would bring flexibility, efficiencies, cost reductions and lower emissions from industry.

The consultancy agrees with the Australian Workers Union that a modern approach to energy development would bring new job opportunities by including all low-emissions technologies. Lifting Australia’s nuclear ban and developing a small modular reactor could bring first-mover advantages to Australian industries and the community.

The consultancy also agrees with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Committee that approvals for nuclear facilities should require the consent of local communities.

The consultancy does not agree with the dissenting report issued by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Committee and believes that it was based on 1970’s thinking and out of step with most of the world.

The dissenting report, labelled ‘A Dangerous Distraction’, claimed that ‘there is simply no case for wasting time and resources on a technology that is literally the slowest, most expensive, most dangerous, and least flexible form of new power generation.’

The consultancy considers that the complete opposite is true. Rather:

- New nuclear technology can progressively replace many of the retiring coal-fired generators and contribute to a ‘net zero by 2050’ strategy
- By increasing the reliability of the entire power system, new nuclear technology reduces power costs for consumers.
- New nuclear technology is intrinsically safe – it is not dangerous
- New nuclear technology is the most flexible form of power generation due to its ability to ‘load follow’
- New nuclear technology is the only source of zero-emissions, reliable power generation that does not depend on the weather
- New nuclear technology is the perfect partner for intermittent, weather-dependent renewable energy in any low-emissions power system

SMR-NT calls on the Commonwealth Parliament to introduce legislation to lift the nuclear ban at federal level and on the Parliamentary Inquiries presently under way in the New South Wales and Victorian Parliaments to support the lifting of the nuclear ban in their respective States.

About **SMR** Nuclear Technology Pty Ltd (SMR-NT)

SMR-NT is a specialist consulting company established to assist governments, commercial and community in making decisions on new technologies in the energy sector. We work with leading global developers of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and can assist local industry and government partners deploy them in Australia.

SMR-NT advises on the siting, development and operation of the safe, new nuclear power generation technologies.

SMR-NT also provide assistance with local community consultations to introduce new energy technologies to their localities, providing jobs and bringing about the power price reductions that consumers require.

Australian nuclear facilities are already helping millions of Australian and overseas patients each year with medical and diagnostic treatments. The introduction of new nuclear technologies in the form of SMRs will broaden the range of benefits for an expanding nation and potentially other countries in the region.

SMR-NT will continue to support discussions to assist Australia achieve its energy and climate goals. We will work to deliver the changes necessary to bring about the advantages and benefits that nuclear technologies can provide to the nation and its regional neighbours including reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions, meeting other climate goals and increasing the nation's energy security.

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