



SEN
Sustainable Energy Now

MYTH BUSTERS

Nuclear Energy

MYTH: NUCLEAR ENERGY IS A VIABLE OPTION FOR ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE IN AUSTRALIA



Nuclear Energy - Facts

Nuclear power is the slowest, most expensive and riskiest type of energy generation. It is not a feasible solution [in Australia](#) to tackle climate change because:

- Nuclear power is banned in Australia, we'd need to lift the ban and build the regulatory framework
- Nuclear reactors would take 12-15 years to plan, licence and build – action is needed now
- Nuclear power is substantially more expensive than renewables
- Australia has abundant solar and wind resources, RE have the capacity to supply 100%+ of our energy needs quickly
- Firming of RE needs flexible generation – nuclear power is like coal in that it's not flexible. Coal has been pushed out of the system by RE and nuclear power won't fit into the system
- Small Modular Reactors are unproven and would face the same social and regulatory hurdles as large scale nuclear
- Nuclear power consumes large volumes of water, which is scarce in WA
- Nuclear reactors produce long-lived radioactive wastes, which no-one wants buried in their locality
- Nuclear power poses safety and security risks
- The total cost of construction is never fully recovered: e.g. cost of nuclear waste disposal; cost of decommissioning the plant at end of life; cost of duplicate plant required for use during maintenance periods.

Check out [this video](#) from Engineering with Rosie on nuclear power in Australia