



ANDREW'S CORNER

NUCLEAR CONSPIRACY

It's being touted by the media that there is a debate on nuclear power generation happening at the moment. Well, I don't hear much debating going on, a lot of ranting yes. The ONP's position on this issue at this time is covered in our energy policy. However, I've been asked to reiterate it here and perhaps add a little more info as to where we stand. At this time, Australia only owns about 40% of its uranium mining operation. We are far from happy with this arrangement. We are highly concerned about the Howard governments position in this matter and do not believe that mainstream Nuclear power plants are an inevitability for Australia. We are also highly critical of the hypocrisy and ignorance of the Beasley led Labour opposition.

Nuclear technology has come a long way since its conception, decreasing waste products and increasing safety aspects in their design. We simply cannot bury our heads in the sand and let the rest of the world sail past us, especially when we are a main source of that uranium. To this end Australia, as a source of uranium should be leading the forefront in design and technology in this field, simply to ensure that its use is that of peaceful and relatively safe power production, and not for the intended use in the creation of nuclear weaponry.

We are not happy about current arrangements with its mining and to whom we sell it to. Simply being reassured that our uranium is not earmarked for weaponry means little when it covertly frees up a countries own uranium deposits to be used almost exclusively for strategic military use. As I mentioned before, there is little waste in a modern reactor, which recycle most of its by-products and if we marry those with the First generation of Fusion Power plants, of which need the heavy water as fuel, you then have the means of producing relatively safe pollutant free energy that uses the by-product of a fission plant, (heavy water) therefore removing the availability of this by-product as a means of creating nuclear weaponry.

27 countries are currently combining their efforts to build the world's first feasible Fusion power plant. Already the trial plant is producing temperatures hotter than the surface of the sun.

One Nation understands that there is a need for nuclear medicine and that the use of fission and fusion plants in conjunction with each other would be a marvellous advancement in science. However, their use should be limited and situated in areas that could contain to a minimum impact any unforeseen disaster. To this end it would probably not be a good idea to have them virtually side by side.

Therefore we see Australia's roll as to be at the forefront of this technology and not fall way behind, as we currently are. But in saying that does not mean that we should go completely nuclear in our power production. To that end the ONP advocates the use of HDR or "HOT DRY ROCK" plants for mass supply of electricity. They are completely safe and capable of producing an immense amount of power, fuelled only by sea or recycled water and their only by-product is fresh water. You can learn all about HDR and how it works, by reading our energy policy, paper, M.

At any rate, it is the people of Australia who should decide how their electricity is produced, and only after all the facts have been presented to them in a truthful and honest debate.

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