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Uranium Mining, Processing and Nuclear Energy Review Secretariat
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Re: Submission in response to the Uranium Mining, Processing and Nuclear Energy Review (UMPNER) Terms of Reference

The Western Australian Sustainable Energy Association (WA SEA) Inc. welcomes the opportunity to comment on the proposed Uranium Mining, Processing and Nuclear Energy Review (UMPNER) Terms of Reference.

WA SEA Inc. is the peak body of the Western Australian sustainable energy industry. The Association promotes the development and adoption of sustainable energy technologies and practices that minimise and/or displace fossil fuel use. The Association has over 60 individual and company members representing a broad spectrum of the sustainable energy industry.

WA SEA Inc. applauds the Federal Government for acknowledging the need to investigate an alternative energy future for Australia within the context of the greenhouses debate and sustainability. Coal and gas are non sustainable resources as is nuclear energy, all with associated greenhouse implications. However, the sure way to secure Australia's energy future is to look towards Australia's renewable energy resources such as wind, solar, hydro, biomass and energy efficiency. Renewable energy typically is greenhouse neutral and has the potential to contribute significantly in meeting Australia's energy needs.

For example, the Australian Ministerial Council on Energy identified ways to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by 20%-30% with the adoption of commercially available technologies with an average payback time of four years. In addition, The Clean Energy Future Group has provided research that Australia's energy needs can be met through the use of renewable energy, energy efficiency and high efficient gas.[1]

To achieve a comparable reduction of greenhouse emissions through the introduction of nuclear power would be expensive, slower, and would generate large volumes of waste.

[1] See: www.wwf.org.au/ourwork/climatechange/cleanenergyfuture

Under the Environmental Issues section of the Terms of Reference, WA SEA Inc. suggests that the following areas also be examined:

- Total greenhouse emissions resulting from the construction, operation and decommissioning of a nuclear power station.
- Environmental benefits of using renewable energy electricity generation technologies.

Under the Economic Issues

- Greenhouse abatement cost ($/t) for the varying technologies considered
- Cost ($/kW installed) comparison of renewable energy technologies compared to gas, coal and nuclear involving full life cycle analysis.
- Economic multipliers for the various technologies under consideration - direct and indirect employment opportunities from nuclear energy.

In closing a comprehensive study of Australia's energy future must consider the full range energy options available. Any examination of the capability of energy technologies to meet future energy and greenhouse goals is seriously flawed without including renewable energy consideration of the full range of options.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Johanna Gastevich on (08) 9328 8411.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Rosser
Chair
Western Australian Sustainable Energy Association (WA SEA) Inc.