



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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New England says NO to Nuclear

Nuclear power stations would not be acceptable to the majority of people in the New England electorate according to a survey conducted by the Federal Member, Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor asked the people of the New England electorate, "Do you want Australia to build nuclear power stations?"

"The results of the survey indicate that two-thirds or 67% of the respondents do NOT want Australia to go down the nuclear energy path, 29.5% said YES and 3.5% are undecided.

"With over 3,000 people sending back their thoughts to me, the result is quite significant," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor said that the survey confirmed his position against the development of nuclear energy in Australia.

"Comments from respondents to the survey indicated that people have grave concerns for safe storage of nuclear waste as well as for the safe operation of nuclear power stations.

"Burying nuclear waste is a disaster waiting to happen and people are understandably cautious about what happens if things go wrong with the nuclear power generation process as has happened elsewhere.

"They also believe as I do, that there are other alternatives that haven't been fully explored and developed that would not have the same impact on our environment if things do go wrong.

"We really need to look more closely at other energy producing technologies like geothermal power generation, wind and solar power, clean coal technology and gas power as well as further encouraging the development of our biofuels industry to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to name just a few other options that should be considered before jumping into nuclear power generation.

"One error in nuclear energy production lasts more than a lifetime and I for one don't want to leave my kids with a nuclear mess to clean up because we were too lazy to develop just as effective but less dangerous energy sources to meet our needs," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor suggests that the Government use its 'Centre for Climate Change Adaptation' to better focus on this issue.

"The Government announced in the last budget the establishment of the 'Centre for Climate Change Adaptation' to bring together scientists and decision makers to develop a strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and develop new low emission technologies.

"I suggest it gets behind this organisation tasking it to do its job without turning to, what the Government appears to see as the panacea for our future energy needs, nuclear energy," Mr Windsor said.

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