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# COVER SHEET FOR SUBMISSIONS

## I**ndependent Review into the Future Security of the National Electricity Market**

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| Overview  Please include this cover sheet with your submission on the Preliminary Report of the Independent Review into the Future Security of the National Electricity Market. | |
| Background  The Preliminary Report outlines the Panel’s observations about the current state of the NEM and offers questions on the major issues the Panel has identified. The questions are designed to elicit suggestions or answers that may help form the Panel’s final recommendations.  The Preliminary Report serves as an issues paper for broad public consultation. As such, the questions and views will be subject to further consideration and discussion, in anticipation of the final blueprint being produced in 2017.  Stakeholders are encouraged to keep their submissions as succinct as possible, and include a one-page executive summary. | |
| Contact Details | |
| **Name of Organisation (where applicable)** | Private submission |
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| Confidentiality and Privacy  The Department will treat all submissions as public documents, unless the author requests the submission be treated as confidential.  Public submissions will be published in full on the Department’s website. The Department will publish your name, organisation (if applicable) and state or territory with your submission.  A request may be made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Commonwealth) for a submission marked ‘confidential’ to be made available. Such requests will be determined in accordance with provisions under that Act.  The Department will deal with personal information contained in, or provided in relation to, submissions in accordance with this cover sheet and its Privacy Policy (<http://www.environment.gov.au/privacy-policy>). That personal information is collected for the purposes of identifying authors of submissions. It may be used and disclosed within the Department and to other persons for the purposes of carrying out the review, and otherwise as required or permitted by law.  **Do you want this submission to be treated as confidential? Yes X No** | |
| Submission Instructions  The submission period will be open until close of business on Tuesday **21 February 2017**.  All submissions should be emailed to the NEM Security Review at the mailbox: [NEMSecurityReview@environment.gov.au](mailto:NEMSecurityReview@environment.gov.au) | |

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16th February, 2017

## Response to the Independent Review Into the Future

## Security of the National Electricity Market

Real-world integration of climate change and electricity trajectories will be required for policy to succeed against the three fundamental objectives of reliability, affordability, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. I am most concerned that the final report will be fundamentally compromised by its failure to include specific reference to the benefits of nuclear energy in achieving these three core objectives. It's clear that the Chief Scientist is fully informed and aware of all the benefits of nuclear electricity generation. Of its safety, economics, low emissions and reliability.

As the Chief Scientist well knows in any International comparison we see a close correlation between countries with low carbon emitting electricity generation and nuclear energy. Note in particular the emissions intensity of Sweden, Switzerland and France which have already achieved carbon emissions intensities in line with the UNFCC targets for 2050.

In the arena of public opinion there is concern that nuclear is seen as being too divisive an issue. The public has been conditioned to accept that the challenge of climate change can be addressed by the "ice cream" solution. That if we just built more low intensity passive devices which address a minor portion of 12% of our emissions sources, namely residential electricity, then everything will be O.K.

What is not addressed within the political or policy arena is the massive task ahead of meeting effective emissions goals. In any study seeking to define a trajectory for Australia's future energy policy a core requirement will be a realistic assessment of the amount of clean energy required to address emissions goals.

The Preliminary Report has failed to align the electricity generating options to the required greenhouse targets as recommended by the UNFCC in 2050. The Preliminary Report limits its brief to current 2030 targets yet we need to be planning now for periods well past 2050 and not short term targets up to 2030. Robust high quality baseload generating systems such as nuclear power plants can readily last for 80 years and take Australia through to the end of this century.

In seeking to demonstrate that renewables are the key to replacing fossil fuels, the PR runs the risk of treating renewables as a societal end in themselves, instead of just options among a suite of technologies that could be used to achieve the combined goals of environmental protection, cost-containment, and electric system reliability.

Finally, there is considerable concern that the Independent role of the Chief Scientist is being compromised by failing to provide frank and fearless advice and by failing to include specific reference to nuclear energy. This failure will prevent early action on emissions reductions and exacerbate the problem.

If the Australian people cannot obtain such advice from the Chief Scientist then to whom do they turn?

To whom should my grandchildren turn to for answers when our generation has failed to act decisively and destroyed their inheritance and that of all the innocent species on this planet?

Yours faithfully



Robert James Parker