Nuclear Energy

Current issue

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Brief talking points

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Key facts

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- *On 19 June, the Opposition announced their plan to build 7 nuclear reactors on the sites of former or retiring coal fired power stations, at: Liddell (NSW), Mount Piper (NSW), Loy Yang (Vic), Tarong (Qld), Callide (Qld), Port Augusta (SA) and Muja (WA). They have proposed a mix of large conventional and small modular nuclear reactors.*
  - *The announcement stated that the first two reactors would be operational between 2035-37, depending on the site and reactor chosen.*
  - *No cost estimates have been provided, but Shadow Treasurer Taylor has committed to releasing more details ahead of the election.*

Sensitivities

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- *Nuclear power production is not permitted in Australia under the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998 and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*
  - *On 28 September 2022 the Environment and Other Legislation Amendment (Removing Nuclear Energy Prohibitions) Bill 2022 was introduced in the*

Senate by Liberal and National Senators, seeking to remove prohibitions on nuclear energy facilities within these Acts.

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Background

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AUKUS

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Sensitivities

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Background

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- *On 19 June 2024, on announcement of the Coalition's nuclear energy policy, Opposition Leader Peter Dutton said that "I don't think we would have been able to have this conversation without AUKUS" and that waste from civil nuclear power plants should be kept "where the government decides the waste from submarines should be stored."*

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