



NOTICE OF MOTION

9th October 2007

NOM5	NUCLEAR POWER PLANT PUBLIC CONSULTATION FORUM
FILE: 727 JACH	{Folio No. *}

I hereby give notice that I will be moving the following Notice of Motion at the next Ordinary meeting of Council on Tuesday 9 October, 2007.

- "1. That Kempsey Shire Council calls on the Federal Government to fund and conduct early, transparent and widely publicised consultation forums across Australia so that citizens are in a position to participate in any binding plebiscite as proposed by Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Mark Vaile.***
- 2. That Kempsey Shire Council offers to co-host such a forum to explore the issues and discuss the short and long term risks and benefits of nuclear reactors, leading to the provision by the Australian Government, of a binding local plebiscite of Kempsey Shire citizens with regard to placement of a nuclear power plant in this shire."***

NOTES:

Rural and regional communities are facing the prospect of nuclear powered generators being built in their 'back yards' as a response to climate change.

The Prime Minister has previously indicated that nuclear reactors will start appearing on the Australian landscape in ten to fifteen years. This is similar to the time frame put forward for the planning, development and building of a nuclear facility, whether by government or private enterprise, therefore the time to have conversations with the community is now.

Debate on nuclear power generation is both confusing and divisive for citizens, as a range of information is put forward by special interest groups where long held views are merely defended rather than explored.

It is the role of governments to engage with their citizens so that information is available to inform their views and decisions. For conversations to be meaningful, this engagement must also allow a fulsome debate about local risks and benefits.

An article in last Saturday's *Daily Telegraph* (29.09.07) reports, ***"Legislation outlining the framework for a nuclear power industry will be introduced over the next term of government if the Coalition is re-elected, Prime Minister, John Howard said."***

The article goes on to say that ***“the Government has thus outlined its intention to establish a nuclear power industry.”***

Further, ***“He said the development of nuclear power stations would be determined by commercial considerations and community consultations.”***

On Channel Ten’s *Meet the Press* on Sunday September 30, Mr Mark Vaile, Member for Lyne and Deputy Prime Minister, was asked whether he agreed with the Prime Minister that over the next 10 years Australia will need to turn increasingly to nuclear energy as a power source.

Mr Vaile replied, ***“I have a view, and I don’t know whether it is 10 years, I mean the task force report indicated a longer term than that given our existing energy sources, but certainly at some stage in the future I think that the Australian economy will need to look at other means of generating energy. What we have said very, very clearly, that at some stage in the future, if that decision is to be made, then local communities, local organisations, local and stage organisations will have the opportunity to have a say in that but, most importantly, local communities through a plebiscite, if you like, to take a decision whether they want something in their area.”***

I wholeheartedly agree with Mr Vaile in that it is vital that communities across the country have an opportunity to make an informed decision as to whether they would support a nuclear reactor within their community and congratulate him on being so forthright in his support for rural and regional communities.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS

- ***Environmental***
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- ***Social***
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- ***Economic (Financial)***
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- ***Policy or Statutory***
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COUNCILLOR J A C HAYES