

MEDIA RELEASE

Communities at proposed nuclear sites launch joint Campaign against Dutton's "half baked Idea"

Community organisations from the seven regional communities where Peter Dutton proposes to house nuclear reactors today launch a regional community alliance and a joint campaign to say NO to nuclear.

"Without asking our communities, Peter Dutton has arrogantly announced that we will house nuclear reactors in our regions," said Wendy Farmer of Voices of the Valley from Latrobe Valley, Victoria.

Peter Dutton announced the half baked idea without giving a plan, David Littleproud and Ted O'Brien both flagged two and a half years of local community consultation. Mr Littleproud said, "We would start the two and a half year consultation process with those communities to make sure they understood". Mr O'Brien added he did not expect the communities were likely to oppose, but they would not be given the opportunity to veto.

He hasn't consulted farmers or families, elders or economists – or even the owners of the sites he has announced. It just doesn't make sense, especially when substantial investment opportunities for renewable energy already exist in our regions.

"Our communities are thousands of kilometres apart but we are standing together because we won't be bullied into housing nuclear reactors." said Wendy Farmer.

Community groups representing thousands of members across the regions where Mr Dutton proposes nuclear reactors are working together since the announcement. Today they're launching a joint petition, addressed to Peter Dutton and all members of the Coalition to say NO to nuclear reactors in their regions and across Australia. In addition, the alliance is asking Australians around the country to support them and sign the petition, saying **No to nuclear reactors** in the regions and across Australia. In Peter Dutton's own words "If you don't know, say NO."

The petition is hosted at www.nonukes.com.au

"We have a cost of living crisis right now," said Robyn Wood, spokesperson for Don't Nuke Port Augusta.

"We need affordable clean energy quickly through a rollout of renewable energy, not an expensive half-baked nuclear fantasy. Our future is in renewable energy."

"Mr Dutton can't tell us how much it would cost, what it would mean for our power bills, how and where nuclear waste could be safely stored for 10,000 years," said Marianne Robinson from the Latrobe Valley. "Japan, Brazil, USA, Russia and the UK have all had significant nuclear safety disasters and our communities don't want to be next."

"Our communities are not the fools Mr Dutton seems to think we are," said Julie Favell, from Lithgow Environment Group.



“We can see this is a half-baked idea intended as a distraction and delay tactic to slow down the real work of building renewables and storage.”

As the seven regional communities across the country stand together, we know Australians from all walks of life will stand with us against this nuclear fantasy. The alliance is asking **Australians, to support the regions across Australia and say “NO TO NUCLEAR REACTORS in Australia.”**

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Wendy Farmer is the President of Voices of the Valley, a community advocacy group formed during the catastrophic 2014 Hazelwood Hazelwood mine fire in Victoria.

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