Energy Policy
INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

'On the Same Page'

A Brief Unofficial Report of an EPIA Member Briefing
Held on 18 April 2018

A number of delegates at a lively EPIA member briefing held in Sydney on 18 April 2018 came to the view:

> *'We're all on the same page here: modern SMR nuclear technologies should be part of Australia's energy future. Whether this is to be by Australia acting alone or teaming with other countries, we must make the case for modern nuclear technologies to be exempted from Australia's archaic legal ban*.'

Delegates were privileged to hear an opening address from NSW Deputy Premier John Barilaro who recently attended an Advanced Reactor Summit in the United States.

Delegates heard during discussion that:

- Communities are desperate for an alternative, clean and safe source of energy that will take the pressure off their electricity bills.

- Younger generations are scratching their heads at why Australia's legal ban on nuclear is still in place and why we aren't considering nuclear energy as a potential energy source.

- Aboriginal communities can see a future nuclear industry as an opportunity for job creation and skills enhancement.

- Many politicians seem trapped by political boundaries and unwilling to engage in a discussion about the technology despite being made aware of its potential benefits.

- Communities should not be treated as being uneducated or unable to understand the nuclear energy debate. When it is discussed in communities, many see nuclear energy as a safe and viable option for Australia's future.

- Our foreign allies are shaking their heads in disbelief at how one of the youngest countries, with a multitude of resources at its disposal, is so behind in securing its own energy future.

What will it take to exempt modern nuclear power technology from the legal ban?

Many delegates agreed that:

- There is a groundswell of community support for nuclear power as part of the energy mix.

- Many politicians have indicated behind closed doors their interest or support for nuclear but say they need to see proof of community support and be provided with reliable technical information.

- Voters should call for bipartisan political action, emphasizing the important principle of technology neutrality.

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