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Dr Scamps comments on Coalition's nuclear policy

Attributable to Dr Sophie Scamps, Independent MP for Mackellar:

Dutton's announcement is policy chaos. I can't believe Peter Dutton is lumping taxpayers with a huge bill for nuclear when they could be benefiting from cheap, clean renewable energy. It is the worst type of short termism and 'policy on the run' from a desperate Liberal party who has caved into the Nationals. The idea has quickly been rejected by Queensland, Victoria and NSW, and also by all the major energy generators Alinta, Origin, AGL and Energy Australia.

The cost of going nuclear would be enormous for Australia, including locking in much higher energy prices for businesses and households for decades into the future. We would be stuck having to rely on old and unreliable coal-fired power stations for the next couple of decades – even though 90% of them are set to be decommissioned by 2034-35. The cost to taxpayers to just keep Eraring coal power plant open for another 2 years is about half a billion dollars.

The Coalition wants to slam the door on the opportunity for Australia to become a world leader in renewable energy generation – meaning it is willing to forfeit all the well-paid, high tech jobs that this would bring.

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