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11 January 2023

**Australian Academy of Science submission on the  
Environment and Other Legislation Amendment (Removing Nuclear Energy Prohibitions) Bill 2022**

The Australian Academy of Science welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee inquiry into the Environment and Other Legislation Amendment (Removing Nuclear Energy Prohibitions) Bill 2022.

The Academy:

- Notes that Australia has capability gaps in nuclear and radiation science. Removing the prohibition on nuclear energy would facilitate investment to address this weakness
- Notes that establishing a robust legislative framework to govern nuclear energy in Australia in a pragmatic and responsible manner requires greater elaboration than this Bill's current provisions

The Australian Academy of Science has previously offered its views on the prerequisites for nuclear energy in Australia in a [submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy Inquiry into the Prerequisites for Nuclear Energy in Australia](#).<sup>1</sup>

The Academy's position is unchanged.

Australia is significantly lagging behind our peer nations in national nuclear and radiation science capability, leading to high demand for the existing workforce and risking our ability to address current and future national needs. Network mapping suggests that beyond the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, there are as few as three permanent experimental nuclear physics researchers in Australia.

These nuclear science capability gaps affect a broad range of fields, including medicine, space radiation, quantum technologies, and defence.

To discuss or clarify any aspect of this submission, please contact Mr Chris Anderson, Director Science Policy at [Chris.Anderson@science.org.au](mailto:Chris.Anderson@science.org.au).

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<sup>1</sup> Australian Academy of Science, *Submission to the Inquiry into the Prerequisites for Nuclear Energy in Australia* (Canberra: Australian Academy of Science, 18 October 2019), <https://www.aph.gov.au/DocumentStore.ashx?id=44f9e760-0691-4696-bef4-570f580bc28e&subId=671508>