



Australian
Nursing &
Midwifery
Federation



Emergency Leaders
for Climate Action



CLIMATE
ACTION NURSES



caha
Climate and Health Alliance



Doctors for the
Environment
Australia



We, the undersigned organisations, represent over 350,000 emergency services workers including firefighters, nurses, midwives, paramedics, doctors, and other first responders and write to express our grave concerns regarding the potential introduction of nuclear power into Australia.

As the frontline responders to disasters and emergencies, we are uniquely positioned to assess the risks posed by nuclear energy infrastructure to public safety, worker health, and environmental security.

Australia's emergency services do not have the support or resources to respond to nuclear disasters. Unlike other nations with established nuclear industries, Australia lacks the necessary infrastructure, resources, and expertise to manage incidents involving nuclear reactors or radioactive waste transportation and storage.

Furthermore, international examples have shown that populations residing in close proximity to nuclear reactors are at an increased risk of developing severe health complications. Existing emergency response and health frameworks would need extensive—and costly—overhauls to address these challenges effectively.

Nuclear accidents expose emergency responders to ionizing radiation levels far exceeding safe occupational limits. International precedents such as Chernobyl and Fukushima demonstrate the devastating health impacts on first responders, including acute radiation sickness and long-term cancer risks.

Current federal guidelines allow firefighters, emergency services, essential services and health workers to be exposed to radiation doses up to 500 times higher than civilian safety limits during catastrophic events. This is an unacceptable risk.

Emergency services are already stretched thin due to escalating climate-fueled disasters such as bushfires and floods. Introducing nuclear energy would add another layer of complexity and risk, without addressing these existing challenges.

The workers most likely to be affected by an accident or an evacuation are part of the communities surrounding these proposed reactors. We do not want our neighbours, our families, or our communities exposed to the ever-present risk of a nuclear accident.

In light of these concerns, we call on the Coalition to abandon plans for nuclear energy in Australia, and prioritise safer energy solutions that do not endanger workers or communities, like solar and wind backed up by storage.



We stand ready to work with policymakers on alternative pathways for a sustainable energy future that does not jeopardize lives or strain our critical emergency services.

SIGNATORIES:

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United Firefighters Union of Australia