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🇦🇺 Nuclear Debate Update: Oct 2026

Strong Polling Results Released

This month, we released our new YouGov polling. The polling told a very clear story, Australians are ready to have a serious conversation about nuclear energy.

You can read more about the results on our website.

63% of Australians believe Australia should consider nuclear power - including 48% of Labor voters.[1]

We also commissioned extended samples in Victoria and South Australia to contribute to discussions in each state.

These results received widespread media coverage, including in 2CC, 5AA, 4BC and the Daily Telegraph.

MIT Nuclear Expert Visits Parliament

Thanks to your support, Jacopo Buongiorno, Professor of Nuclear Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), visited Federal Parliament earlier this month.

We had 12 meetings in one day including Labor, Liberals, Nationals and One Nation and caught up with many more politicians in the halls.

Read more about the visit.

Jacopo makes a compelling case for why nuclear improves energy affordability in the long term.

To learn more, you can watch my interview with Jacopo here.

State Based Nuclear Developments

In addition to our work to lift the federal nuclear power bans, we continue to advocate for state nuclear prohibitions in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales to be lifted.

In **South Australia**, I attended the Global Uranium Conference, where South Australian Labor Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis said Australia's nuclear conversation is just beginning and called the bans a "testament to the idiocy of politics".[2] We have two visits to Adelaide planned next month.

In **New South Wales**, John Ruddick's bill to lift the state ban (that passed the Legislative Council in May) was recently debated in the Legislative Assembly.

In Queensland, we exposed the Queensland LNP for refusing to lift their nuclear prohibition with major media coverage including a front page story in the Courier Mail[3].

Finally, with the Victorian election coming up we are engaging with politicians accross the aisle to advocate for lifting their state nuclear prohibition.

Nuclear Expert Interview Series

Earlier this month we released an interview with energy expert and nuclear physicist **Dr Sarah Lawley**.

We discussed why tech giants like Microsoft, Google and Meta are investing in nuclear power overseas, and whether nuclear makes sense for powering Australia's data centres.

Upcoming state elections and increased pressure on the Federal Government make the next few months critical for increasing support for nuclear across parties and hopefully seeing the first nuclear prohibitions lifted.

Get excited!

Will Shackel
(Founder of Nuclear for Australia)

[1] *New YouGov Polling results released, 25 October 2026*
[2] *Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP, South Australian Treasurer, address to the Global Uranium Conference 2026, SkyCity Adelaide, Wednesday 7 October 2026*
[3] *The Courier Mail, 1 October 2026*

~ Nuclear News over the page ~

Nuclear News

Will's appearance on News24's Opinionated

Nuclear for Australia founder Will Shackel joined News24's Opinionated to discuss why Australia's nuclear ban is about politics, not technology.

Watch the full segment on our website ➜

Finland Grants Licence To World's First Deep Geologic Nuclear Repository

Finland has granted an operating licence to the world's first deep geological repository for spent nuclear fuel at Onkalo, paving the way for permanent disposal of nuclear waste 430 metres underground

Read the full article here on Nucnet ➜

Will appeared on the Your Energy Answers Podcast

Will sat down with Markus Lambert on the Your Energy Answers podcast to discuss the case for lifting Australia's nuclear ban.

Watch the podcast here ➜

Amazon to fund 12 small nuclear reactors at former Indiana coal plant

Amazon is funding a proposed 960 MW nuclear power plant featuring 12 small modular reactors in Indiana to supply carbon-free electricity to the regional grid and its data centres.

Read the full article on TechCrunch ➜

NUCLEAR FOR AUSTRALIA

📈 Our impact this month

Highlight: This month, we released our YouGov polling, showing that momentum is on our side: 63% of Australians now support nuclear energy.

Nuclear for Australia Campaign Dashboard:

📱 ≈ 1.24 million social media impressions

👤 123,535 total supporters

📹 42 media mentions

🙋 354 total volunteers

Thank you for supporting Nuclear for Australia

I stand for nuclear energy ➜

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About Nuclear for Australia

Nuclear for Australia promotes the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology in Australia. We have over 119,000 supporters including thousands of donors who generously support our work.

NUCLEAR FOR AUSTRALIA

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