

Nuclear Power Economically Viable: Report

Nuclear power is cheaper to produce than other forms of energy and also better for the environment, according to a report presented to the Federal government by the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO).

ANSTO Executive Director, Ian Smith, told ABC radio that nuclear power is an economically viable alternative to other forms of power generation and concerns over nuclear waste have been overstated.

"A 500 MW nuclear power station in Australia would produce something like 800 kg of waste", he said. "A 500 MW coal-fired power station produces 300,000 t of solid waste and over 4 MMt of CO₂. When it is treated properly, nuclear power plant waste is probably safer than the waste that comes from coal-fired power stations."

The report was given to Federal Science Minister, Julie Bishop, on May 26th. "I welcome this report as a useful contribution to what I

hope will be an evidence-based debate about nuclear power in Australia", Bishop said. "The debate must focus on the facts and not be biased by emotion. I will ask ANSTO to release a synopsis of the findings while I consider the full report in detail."

The synopsis is available online at www.ansto.gov.au ■