

Media release

*****EMBARGOED UNTIL 9pm Sunday 1 December 2019*****

Support for lifting the ban on nuclear energy

Statement from Tania Constable, Chief Executive Officer

New polling has shown that more Australians support lifting the ban on the use of nuclear power than oppose it.

The polling by JWS Research conducted for the MCA found four in 10 Australians support lifting the ban on nuclear power in Australia and 39 per cent support the use of nuclear power in Australia.

The research was conducted in early to mid-October 2019 with focus groups in Sydney and Melbourne and a quantitative poll of 1500 Australians

Support for nuclear power grew to 55 per cent when those polled were asked whether they would accept lifting the ban on the use of nuclear power in Australia if they knew that a majority of Australians supported it.

Opposition to both the use of nuclear power in Australia and lifting the ban was 33 per cent. A further 29 per cent of people were either neutral or unsure about the use of nuclear power in Australia, with 26 per cent either neutral or unsure on lifting the ban.

The polling found more than half those surveyed – 54 per cent – are unaware nuclear power is banned in Australia.

This shows Australians need to know more about nuclear energy and how it would help reduce power bills and Australia's emissions. The MCA has extensively advocated the use of safe, reliable, zero-emissions nuclear power in recent years to support a mature and informed discussion including producing a [new publication](#) on untapped potential and the case for nuclear energy.

Climate change is real and as global energy demand increases, so does the need to diversify our power supplies and reduce emissions through technology.

Nuclear energy is safe, reliable and affordable. It provides around 10 per cent of the world's electricity with zero emissions.

The power provided by nuclear energy is low cost and can meet the needs of industrial and household consumers 24/7.

Yet Australia, with the world's largest deposits of uranium, continues to prohibit the use of nuclear power. Any government serious about addressing climate change must consider nuclear in its energy mix.

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