

NUCLEAR POWER:

A Waste of Time

Australia needs to move quickly to replace its aging coal-fired power stations. We have already lost six coal-fired power stations in the last decade, and twelve more are scheduled to close by 2040. 90% of our coal-fired power will close by 2035.

Coal-fired Power stations closing by 2040:

STATION	CAPACITY (MW)	CLOSURE
Eraring	2880	2025
Collie	340	2027
Yallourn	1480	2028
Callide B	700	2028
Muja	854	2029
Bayswater	2,640	2033
Vales Point B	1,320	2033
Gladstone	1,680	2035
Loy Yang A (Partial)	2,200	2035
Tarong	1,400	2037
Tarong North	443	2037
Mount Piper	1,400	2040

We cannot keep these power stations open forever. As they approach the end of their life, they become less and less reliable.

Nuclear will not keep the lights on or our manufacturing onshore: the earliest that we can build a nuclear reactor is 2040. And that's if there are no unplanned delays.

Nuclear reactors are notorious for delays and wasteful cost-blowouts and construction times are increasing every decade.

– Olkiluoto 3 in Finland was originally slated for completion in 2009 but didn't commence operations until 2023.

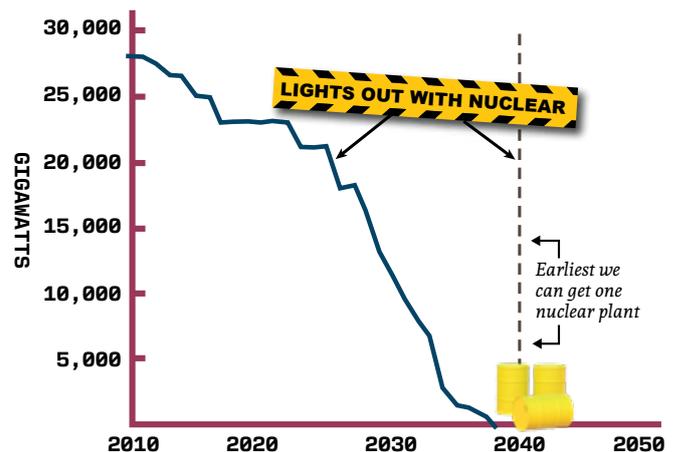
– Britain's Hinkley Point C reactor was due to open in 2025, but this has now been pushed back to at least 2029.

The nuclear reactors that came online between 2020-2022 were three years late on average.

Nuclear power is currently banned in every Australian state and territory. No state government or opposition supports wasting time changing this, and no nuclear power can be built without it.

Even if a single state government changed its mind tomorrow, the average nuclear takes 9.4 years just to build, and that's only after the designing, planning, and development approval processes.¹ With no workers in Australia currently trained to operate nuclear reactors, it would take us 10 – 15 years to develop the necessary workforce.² None of these jobs are guaranteed. By the time the first nuclear reactor was open, almost all the coal fired power stations would be gone.³

Coal station closures NEM, 2010–2050:



¹ Mycle Schneider Consulting. The World Nuclear Industry Status Report 2023

² Industry, Innovation and Science. Not without your approval

³ AEMO. Draft Integrated Systems Plan

Nuclear will not keep the lights on or our manufacturing onshore. Australia cannot afford to wait for nuclear.