

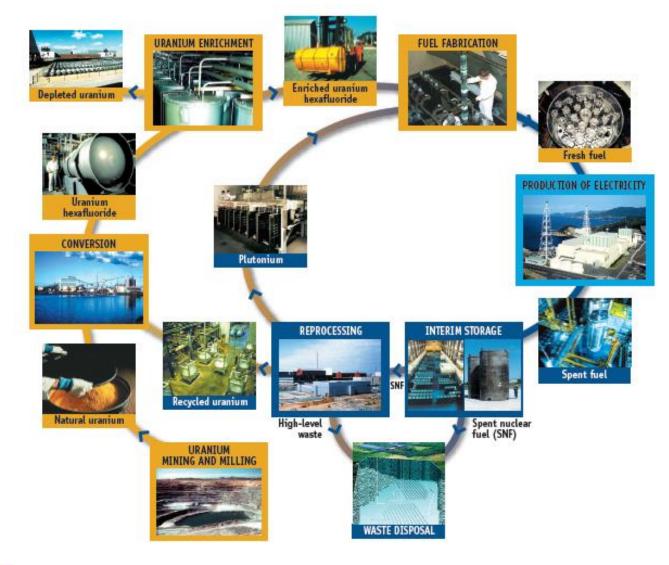
### Nuclear Power for Australia?

A look at some of the issues

Presenter: Dr John Söderbaum

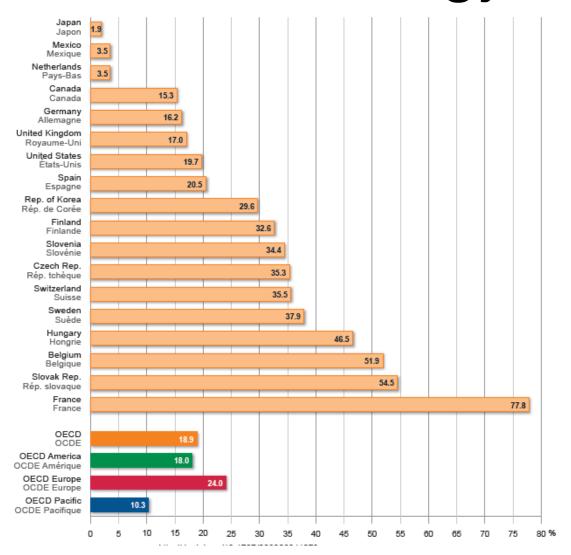
Location: Hobart 17 June 2014

## The nuclear fuel cycle



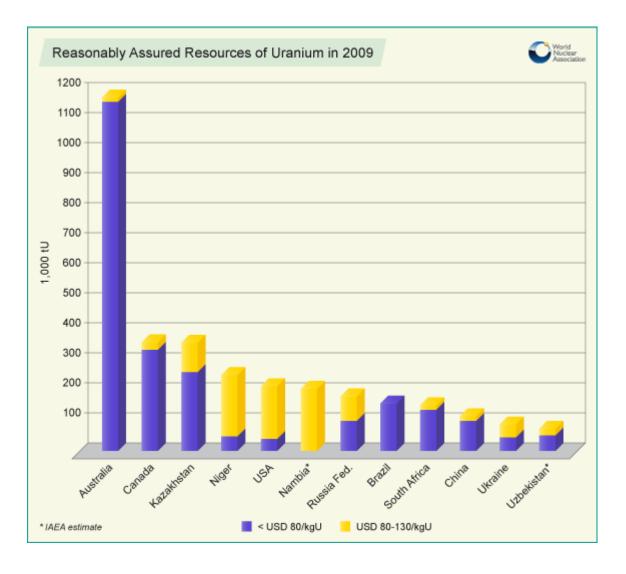


## Share of nuclear energy in OECD





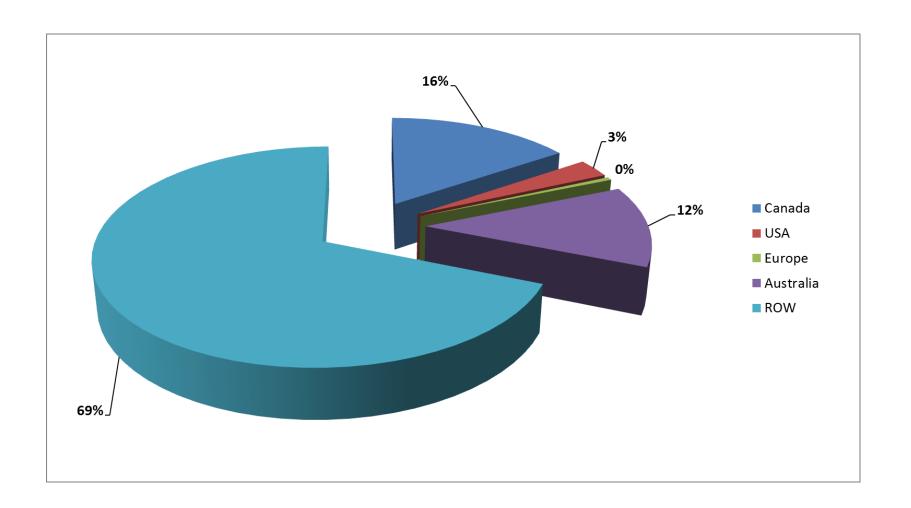
### Reserves of uranium







## Uranium production (2012)







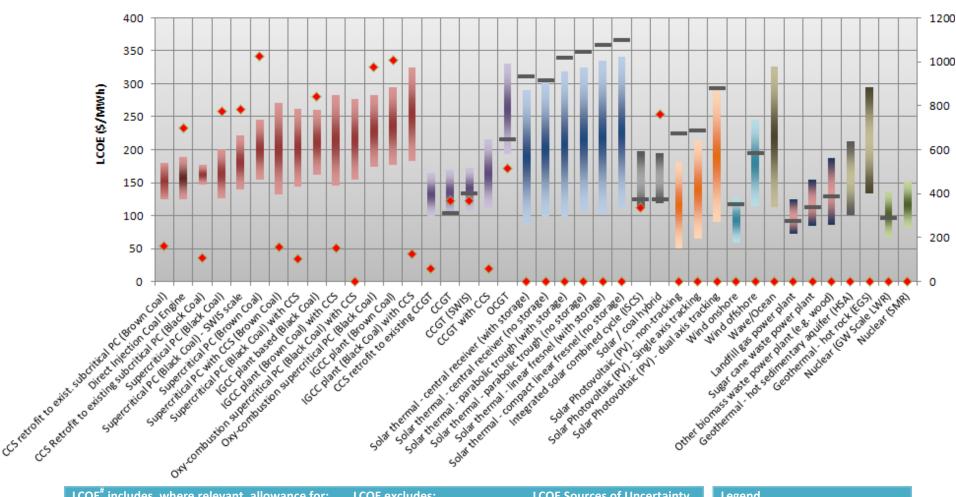
# So why doesn't Australia use nuclear power?

- Plenty of cheap(ish) coal and gas
- ▲ No price on carbon emissions (soon)



#### Australian Energy Technology Assessment 2012

2030 TECHNOLOGIES \*



#### LCOE<sup>#</sup> includes, where relevant, allowance for:

- Carbon Price
- CO<sub>2</sub> transport and sequestration cost
- Plant capital cost (EPC basis) within battery limits
- Owners costs excluding interest during construction
- Fixed and variable O&M
- Fuel costs
- Economic escalation factors

#### **LCOE** excludes:

- Decommissioning costs
- Project residual value
- Network connection costs and augmentation
- Effects of taxation
- Financing costs
- Plant degradation

#### **LCOE Sources of Uncertainty**

- Capital Cost
- Operating cost
- Fuel cost
- Carbon cost
- Sequestration cost

#### Legend

**Emission Intensity** (kgCO2e/MWh)

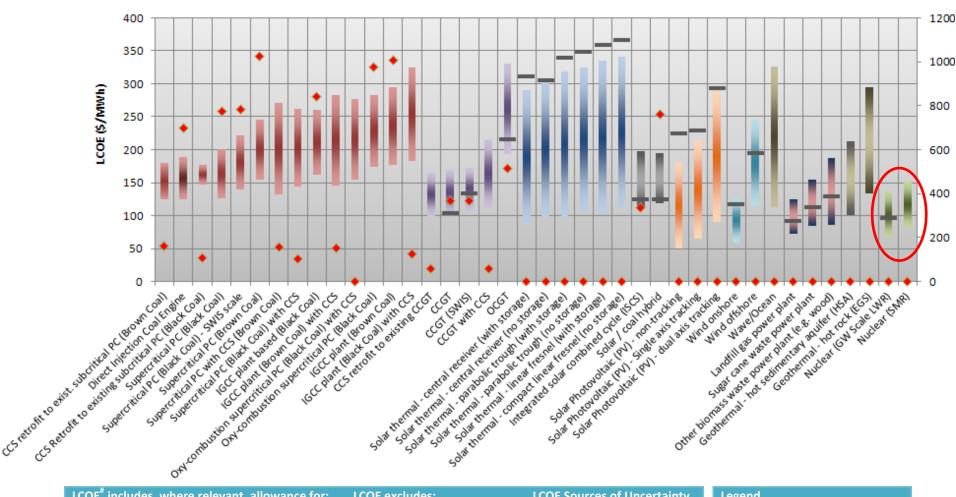
2012 LCOE mid-point (where technology is available in 2012)

kgCo2e/MWh

Note: \* Default region is NSW except brown coal technologies (VIC) and SWIS scale (as specified)

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**Further Information:** www.bree.gov.au

kgCo2e/MWh

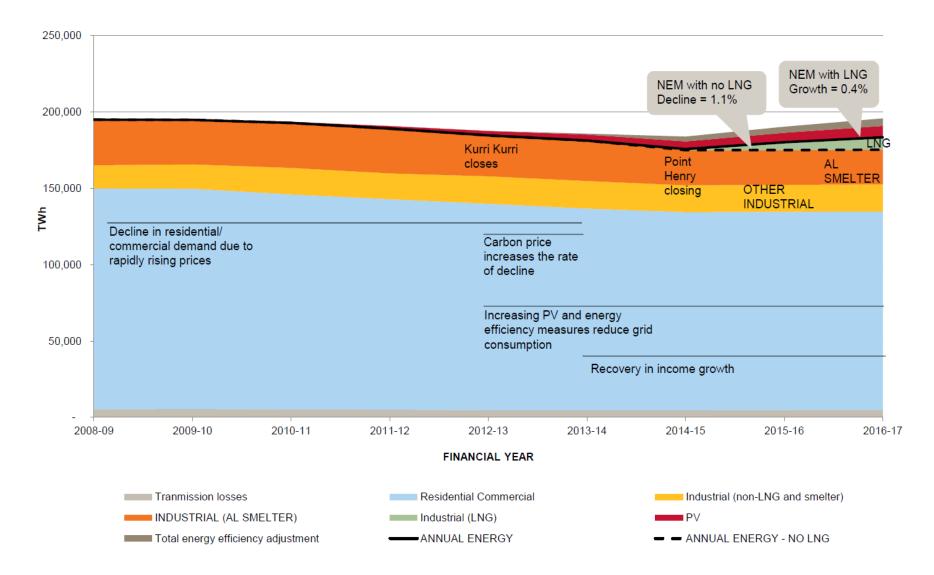


# So why doesn't Australia have nuclear power?

- Plenty of cheap(ish) coal and gas
- No price on carbon emissions (soon)
- Falling electricity demand

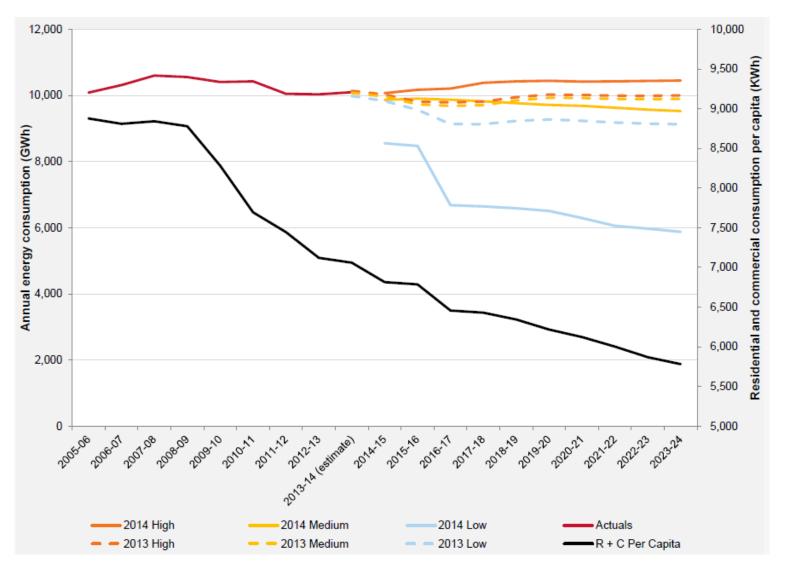


### AEMO's 2014 electricity forecasts





### Forecast for Tasmania





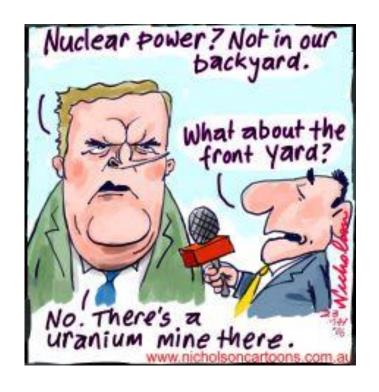


# So why doesn't Australia have nuclear power?

- ▲ A lot of cheap(ish) coal and gas
- No price on carbon emissions (soon)
- Falling electricity demand
- Politics
  - ▲ There is a bipartisan position, but ....



### Political bipartisanship ...





### Political bipartisanship ...







# ACOLA study of nuclear attitudes identified...

- Six pathways to attitude formation
  - Historical
  - Cultural
  - Political
  - News media
  - International influences
  - Education





### ATSE Nuclear Conference

- ▲ Nuclear Energy for Australia?
- ✓ Two day conference in July 2013
- ▲ Attended by some 200 national and international experts and delegates
- The conference examined the opportunities and threats of nuclear and other energy options available to Australia
- Five key conclusions





### ATSE Conference conclusions

- Nuclear is a viable technology for Australia
- Nuclear energy would help reduce our emissions
- The risks of nuclear energy are well studied and manageable
- Australia must be prepared
- Social and political acceptance is crucial





## ATSE Energy Position Statement

- ✓ To support its sustainable development and future prosperity, Australia must move to low emission energy systems that are affordable, secure and reliable.
- A lack of a bipartisan political agreement is driving policy instability and uncertainty and hampering investment in energy.
- ✓ The fact that one of the few issues that political parties agree on is that nuclear energy is excluded from consideration as an generation option is a key problem.





### So what should we do?

- ATSE Action Statement in preparation
- ▲ Three draft recommendations:
  - Nuclear energy should be an option for future base load generation.
  - Encourage open, informed community debate and understanding of the issues.
  - Undertake a comprehensive study to evaluate the social, environmental and economic potential of nuclear energy for Australia.



# Thank you

