

Resource Exploration Inquiry
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
Canberra City ACT 2601

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Dear Sir/Madam

I want to make a submission to the Productivity Commission 2013, Mineral and Energy Resource Exploration Draft Report Inquiry, Canberra.

I am of the opinion that Australia must stop exploring for uranium. It may be able to technically explore and mine it but is it profitable? Why should states which have had a long history of having no uranium mining be forced to have uranium mining?

Where is the evidence that Victorians want uranium mining? Other issue. Why the Nuclear Activities (Prohibitions) Act 1983 should not be reviewed because of the Olympic Dam expansion does not proceed then. Why should exploration and uranium mining be successful in Victoria?

The second issue that I want to bring up is, the report needs to give more details why is it a regulatory burden? It is pretty hard to make an informed about this inquiry it needs case studies.

The third issue that I want to bring up is how does the regulatory burden within resource exploration interact with the skills shortage?

The fourth issue that I want to bring up is the people who do the approval and processes should have the confidence to take the time to complete the task properly. They should not feel they need to rush to meet commercial objectives. If it means it takes two years to complete an approvals process.

The fifth issue I want to bring up is things can take an unexpected turn, for example, if there are flood events similar to the last five years in various parts of Australia. It takes longer to do any assessment if you have trouble visiting an area because of floods. There should be standard periods of where no work can be undertaken in certain parts of the country for example northern top half of Australia.

There are other issues such as cyclones which would affect states such as Western Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland. In a cyclone season you cannot predict how cyclones actually hit the mainland and the strength of them.

There are other issues such as protests in the cities. For example 10 years ago in Melbourne. There were over 200,000 people on the streets for the protests against the second war in Iraq.

There are other issues such as heat with the temperatures expected to be over 35°C more often. There will be less productivity in hotter weather. Even Bureau of Meteorology added another colour bar from the coldest to the hottest during the past summer.

There are other issues such as deaths in families, such deaths can happen unexpectedly. There are times people have to take time off work. If that employment happens to be in a government department whose role is it to approve or disallow mineral and energy resource exploration. Those projects must be delayed.

There are other issues such as holidays, for example: Christmas, Easter, Melbourne Cup. There should be acknowledgment that work to approve mineral and energy resource exploration cannot happen certain times of the year. Alternative to this includes employing more staff from all sides of the fence from governments, companies, NGOs and other individuals who have an interest in the process. There should be more time for people who do not have the resource to big companies and NGOs. This should be seen as fair compensation.

There are other issues such as long service leave and retirements. There should be depth in companies to handle long service leave. For some staff who can step up take on a higher level position. When staff reach their late fifties and sixties there should be succession plans in place.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Pastalatzis