

## Geothermal Update 2024

Exciting developments are beginning to emerge at long last in the global push to establish geothermal power plants for the generation of electricity, but sadly Australia lags far behind the forefront of these developments, and is in fact now being dragged backwards by [yet another attempt](#) to promote the vested interests of [the global nuclear power industry](#) being championed by the Liberal-National Coalition while in opposition to our current Labour Government.

The Coalition leader Peter Dutton has recently announced that he will go ahead with the introduction of nuclear power stations in Australia in the unlikely event that he should ever win an election, obviously being pressured by the nuclear lobby to promote this ludicrous notion, without any mention of where the radioactive waste is going to be stored for the next 30,000 years, nor any plan for protecting Australians from the danger of accidents of the Long Island/Chernobyl/Fukushima variety, let alone to safeguard against the permanent threat that their existence would pose in the form of targets for terrorists or hostile attack in the [as-yet-unforeseen](#) future [wars the defence forces are being paid billions of dollars to prepare for](#). If only a fraction of these billions were being put into the development of geothermal energy, Australia could actually be defending itself against [the very real, constantly growing and utterly foreseen threat posed by climate change](#), rather than fuelling the [collective paranoid delusions](#) of the militarist war-mongers that Australia is under any credible threat from military invasion or attack, which obviously appear to our neighbours such as Indonesia and China as what they really are: [hostile preparations for invasions initiated by us](#).

Aside from the environmental and ethical objections to nuclear power in Australia, and the contempt such proposals show for future generations, repeated assessments of the economic cost-benefit balance of nuclear power have shown time and again that nuclear power is simply not feasible. Since it would cost much more than it would earn, many are left scratching their heads as to why the nuclear “option” is being touted yet again by the LNP coalition, other than a puerile reactionary desire to promote whatever the “greenies” don’t want, and the profits which could be generated for the corporations which would be contracted to build such plants.

The real reason is both hidden and obvious in the context of the AUKUS deal and the planning underway by arms manufacturers to try to provoke a lucrative war between the US and China. Every nuclear power station is also a potential nuclear bomb factory with the right upgrades. And [like their hero Netanyahu](#), insane militarists like Dutton are intoxicated by the thought of the sheer power of being in possession of nuclear weaponry. This is why [Israel started its development of nuclear weaponry](#) by building its [nuclear power station](#) with France’s help ([the so-called Dimona Project](#)), in 1958 behind the back of the USA, along with adamant denials that it would ever be used to produce weapons, denials which were

revealed to be blatant lies just a few years later. And also why more recently Iran's nuclear energy program was met with such great alarm in Israel and in the West.

Those outside Australia may not be familiar with this ghoulish fiend who wants to be Prime Minister of this country, so here are some videos to explain to you who Peter Dutton is, and why he along with the disgraced corrupt ex-politician John Barilaro might want to promote the push to build nuclear power plants in Australia:

<https://youtu.be/aIGKckS01EA>   <https://youtu.be/arvIFNY4V5s>  
<https://youtu.be/IN5Ott25uiY>   [https://youtu.be/ISol\\_OuPJ5k](https://youtu.be/ISol_OuPJ5k)

In contrast to this depressing situation in Australia, there are exciting developments afoot in the UK, the US, and Canada. For although most governments worldwide remain firmly in the grip of the fossil fuel lobby and the entire world economy seems built upon a foundation of oil, coal and gas, the visionaries at Google have seen that leadership can no longer be left to politicians, those naked emperors who are only pretending to govern on a basis other than naked greed, and who should really be called the PR department of the fossil fuel industry.

<https://youtu.be/IHbtmgprhmA>  
<https://youtu.be/y0UH0vLichg>

Meanwhile, in the UK, the United Downs Deep Geothermal in Cornwall is up and running, and demonstrating an important development. For it is turning out to be a very productive lithium mine to boot: the water being pumped through the ground is returning to the surface laden with dissolved lithium salts, which can be extracted and sold, adding considerable value to the project's profitability:

<https://youtu.be/LEQA6FvJaq4>  
[https://youtu.be/VIG06\\_Hml-8](https://youtu.be/VIG06_Hml-8)  
<https://youtu.be/WpY94u05Yf8>

Boston company Quaise Energy are making significant advances in boring technology which obviate the problems of bore-hole degradation caused by superheated steam in conventionally drilled bore-holes. The idea of vitrifying bore holes by laser drilling to prevent porosity of their walls is not new, with breakthroughs in laser drilling announced some twenty years ago:

<https://www.laserfocusworld.com/industrial-laser-solutions/article/14215634/earth-boring-with-laser-energy>

The German company Fraunhofer went some way with commercialization of the technology:

[https://www.ipt.fraunhofer.de/en/Press/Pressreleases/20190214\\_geothermal-drilling-high-power-laser-weakens-and-fractures-hard-rock.html](https://www.ipt.fraunhofer.de/en/Press/Pressreleases/20190214_geothermal-drilling-high-power-laser-weakens-and-fractures-hard-rock.html)

Although certain German sceptics with vested interests in jobs for fusion-physicists remain unconvinced, or should I say "unconvincible": <https://youtu.be/l6UGpaKnkS0>

This is why the breakthrough underway by Quaise with their Millimeter Wave Drilling technology is such a promising innovation: <https://youtu.be/2rVKDi1H0Z0>

Here in Australia, Earths Energy are trying to rekindle interest in geothermal:

<https://youtu.be/Mpu1zOUK8wA>

<https://youtu.be/y9FdAYKpSaY>

<https://youtu.be/nMPAjABArKI>

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/hWxBsnreeJw>

As the LNP politicians have been pointing out in their pro-nuclear push, de-commissioned coal mines are ideal locations for conversion to another kind of generation technology, due to the electrical transmission infrastructure already being in place. If this is so for nuclear, it is much more so for geothermal, the layer of remaining coal providing a natural thermal blanket of insulation increasing the sub-coal temperature:

<https://youtu.be/jqMNCc3hOcE>

[https://youtu.be/\\_bIWLGuJ9fk](https://youtu.be/_bIWLGuJ9fk)

Iceland has long been the world leader in utilizing this resource, due to the ease of accessing hot rocks on the volcanically active island:

<https://youtu.be/KbpfZlqSylo>

<https://youtu.be/3KepmDQfEHg>

But geothermal developments have since gone global. From Eavor in Canada ...

<https://youtu.be/6GTqJd6PSHA>

<https://youtu.be/NmuQb3GqTUM>

<https://youtu.be/gV92QFD5qQ>

... to the various projects across not only many US States, but also in Kenya, in India and elsewhere:

<https://youtu.be/eg6x0CqJf4E>

[https://youtu.be/q\\_1UJfl\\_4mQ](https://youtu.be/q_1UJfl_4mQ)

<https://youtu.be/zU8v7Nalv5U>

<https://youtu.be/TsToZC-SD1Y>

<https://youtu.be/HRCnB4HwUOI>

Such developments are putting discussion of geothermal back on various agendas:

<https://youtu.be/-CwdchfjtR4>

<https://youtu.be/qDY6Yg4JKJs>

<https://youtu.be/Le31K76BFU8>

<https://youtu.be/4l1d6H-mK6w>

<https://youtu.be/Ly7khfOqfzY>

Even the bots are talking about it.

<https://youtu.be/aCjR1mBrg-Q>

So how was it that geothermal was taken off the agenda in Australia? One pertinent case study here in Victoria was the sale of the state's geothermal exploration permits by the State Labour Government to Lakes Oil NL in 2007, following upon [the Geothermal Energy Resources Bill 2004 \(and second reading\)](#) Lakes Oil set up a company [called Greenerth Energy](#), took millions in funding from the State Government which was matched by further millions from the Federal Government, pocketed the money and promptly went into receivership. This one small example shows the strategy of suppression used by fossil fuel interests to try to take the geothermal option off the table, a strategy which has been incredibly successful in Australia, where geothermal has been erased not only from Government consideration, but even from public discourse. An amazing success story for Lakes Oil, and one that made a tidy profit, although their millions are spare change when we consider what's at stake for the current natural gas projects in Bass Strait:

<https://overland.org.au/2023/08/out-of-sight-out-of-mind-offshore-drilling-in-the-bass-strait-and-otway-basin>

<https://youtu.be/o3-BxUE1iOg>

With [Madeleine King](#) rubber-stamping exploration permits for new off-shore gas drilling projects worth countless billions, it's not hard to join the dots and see how the fossil fuel lobby runs the country through their PR branch, the Australian Labour Party. If it wasn't for organizations like the Australian Marine Conservation Society, there would be no hope for Australia at all. At least the ALP haven't gone nuclear: yet... I never thought I'd be saying this, but thank goodness for Google!

<https://www.marineconservation.org.au/actions/end-special-prospecting-authorities>