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Columnist
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2 Holt Street
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

As a regular reader of your articles in The Australian Newspaper, I write to compliment you on "*Sweden's 'green dream' a warning to us all*" which appeared in The Australian on June 29, 2023. You are absolutely right it is a warning to us all.

In referring to the speech, last year, by Energy Minister, Chris Bowen stating that Australia would require the installation of 22,000 solar panels every day and the erection of 40 large wind turbines every month for the next seven years plus 28,000km of new transmission lines to achieve the Labor Government's legislated target of 82 per cent renewable power generation by 2030, you have highlighted the economic lunacy of this policy.

You mention, too, the extraordinary article by Australia's former Chief Scientist, Alan Finkel, in which he extolled his vision splendid of forests of wind turbines and fields of solar panels stretching as far as the eye can see to achieve, as you say, "*the supposedly essential move to net zero*" emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere of the Earth.

Again you are right! Not only is net zero emissions of CO₂ NOT essential it is scientifically and environmentally fallacious as demonstrated by the enclosed CNI FACT SHEET – CARBON DIOXIDE (CO₂). Any success in reducing atmospheric CO₂ will simply reduce the abundance of plant, animal (and ultimately human) life on earth.

When Mr Finkel was Australia's Chief Scientist, we challenged him to refute the CO₂ FACT SHEET. He chose not to respond; obviously, he did not wish to try to refute the irrefutable.

The action by the Government of Sweden might be the turning point to encourage the Western world to scrap 'net zero' and as a preference, use clean coal technology to generate reliable low cost energy and emit more CO₂ in the atmosphere to the benefit of the planet.

Mr Chris Minns, Labor Premier of NSW, has the courage to commit to keeping the Eraring coal fired power plant open, beyond its 2025 close down date, if it is necessary to do so to guarantee reliable power for NSW. Perhaps this could be a turning point for other State Premiers to have the courage to do likewise.

You mention the alternative of small modular nuclear reactor power stations, if it really is necessary to get to net zero any time soon. As shown above by reference to the CO2 FACT SHEET, net zero is not necessary and is in fact damaging to the planet.

In Australia, conversion of existing coal fired power stations to clean coal technology rather than closing these down, is likely to be more economically viable than the capital cost of the small nuclear reactors and the planet will benefit from the increased levels of CO2 in the atmosphere.

Another adverse aspect of the renewables drive is that the huge capital cost, will impede Australia's drive to address the inflation problem.

We respectfully and strongly encourage you to take the opportunity to promote clean coal technology as an alternative to closing down coal fired power stations and as an absolute priority to "Australia's mad dream of achieving 70% of our electricity from wind and solar within 7 years."

Denis J Whitely – Executive Committee