



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **Call for mature debate on nuclear power as survey shows positive public opinion of South Australians**

South Australia's peak mining and energy body has found that a greater proportion of South Australians support nuclear power than oppose it, dispelling common misconceptions and demonstrating the need for a mature debate on the development of this industry.

A survey into the attitudes of 1,216 randomly selected South Australians towards uranium and nuclear power commissioned by the South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy (SACOME), found that 48% support nuclear power while only 33% recorded any level of opposition.

The 2013 SACOME survey, conducted by market research company, ReachTel, also found consistency across all age groups, recording a majority support for nuclear power. Less than one-third of all respondents opposed it, and one-fifth remained neutral.

"A key aspect of responses to this question was the level of strong opinions expressed, with 29% strongly supporting and only 20% strongly opposing nuclear power - in other words, there are more staunchly pro-nuclear than anti-nuclear advocates," Jason Kuchel, Chief Executive, SACOME, said.

The issue of nuclear power and the steps required for seeing its introduction in Australia is a focus of the latest issue of the *SA Mines & Energy Journal*, with international uranium companies saying they would warmly welcome a revision of current policies and pledging interest in doing business in Australia if prohibitions on uranium and nuclear are reduced.

The journal also includes special features on the history of how prohibition laws came about, along with the economic case for an Australian nuclear fuel cycle.

The findings in SACOME's survey are supported by a more recent poll published in *The Advertiser*, with the Future SA poll surveying 12,000 South Australian's about a wide range of topics, including whether nuclear power should be allowed in the State. More than half (58.6%) of the respondents believe it should be.

The SACOME survey also asked respondents to consider the current debate about climate change and indicate what role they saw nuclear power playing in Australia. 63% of people saw nuclear playing some role in the future of Australia's electricity supply.



“It seems South Australians see nuclear power as an inevitable, sustainable and environmentally sound alternative, and are pragmatic when it comes to forming opinions on the matter,” Mr Kuchel said.

“SACOME sees a future role also for the new generation of small modular reactors to provide power to remote mining projects, utilising our abundant uranium resources and providing zero carbon power.”

Leading up to the recent State Election, several political, business and social commentators came out strongly in favour of South Australia adopting a policy to seriously look at the case for nuclear power, with Business SA, the Minerals Council of Australia, and the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering calling for a mature debate based on science and facts.

“The results of this survey and message from key groups sends a clear message to our politicians: South Australians want to see the possibility of nuclear power at least considered for future use, and put on the agenda for discussion,” Mr Kuchel said.

“It is also worth noting that despite the global events of Fukushima and negative connotations affiliated with uranium spread by special interest groups, it appears that South Australians continue to see the benefits of this commodity in providing further economic, employment and energy opportunities for the State.”

The survey results are available from the [SACOME website](#), with a full write-up featured in the latest *SA Mines & Energy Journal*, available through SACOME.

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