



 Institute of  
Public Affairs

# IPA RETREAT CANBERRA





# Energy Security

Stephen Wilson

*Visiting Fellow*

# Energy Security

## Outline

- Where are we?
- The journey ahead of us
- How our work will move us to success

November 9<sup>th</sup> 1989





Brisbane 27 Feb 2022



Antoine Lavoisier, 1743-1794



Loy Yang A & B

[ Hazelwood ]

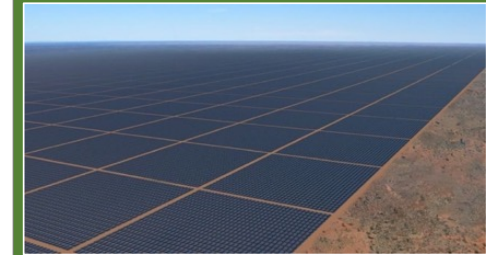
Yallourn W

**Latrobe Valley** Victoria

Image: Brian Yap 'Latrobe valley—making clouds' from Tyers Lookout 1 May 2008  
creative commons [www.flickr.com/photos/yewenyi/2534899886/in/photostream/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/yewenyi/2534899886/in/photostream/)

# Energy Security

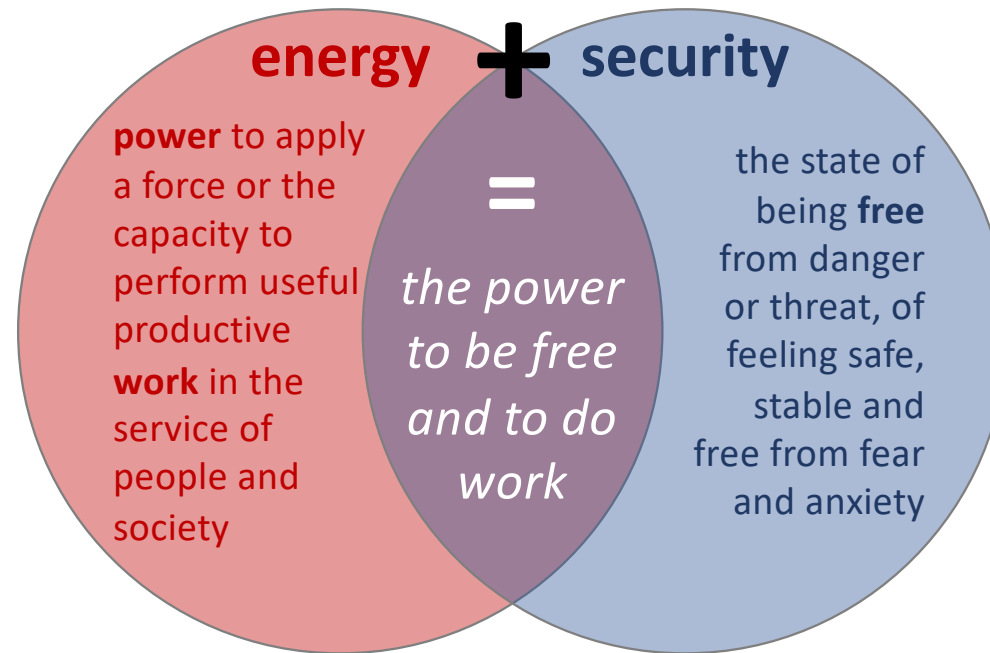
## Were we are





# Energy Security

## ...what is it?



The definitions of energy and security are drawn from *The Oxford English Dictionary*  
The definitions of power, work and energy are consistent with engineering science

# Energy security

## White Stream

White Stream™ will transport Caspian gas across the Black Sea directly to markets in Central and Eastern Europe, firstly to and via Romania, and later Ukraine

### Developer

The White Stream Consortium is assembling a permitted commercial package, to prepare for the financing and construction of the pipeline, with project management and preliminary engineering being undertaken by the White Stream Pipeline Company Limited of the UK

### Target gas markets

White Stream will land Caspian gas in Romania for delivery to the EU single gas market, diversifying and strengthening supply to South-East Europe and Central and Eastern Europe. White Stream also opens several real options for direct Caspian gas supply to Ukraine

### Security of supply

European gas production is in decline. The EU single gas market needs new gas sources via independent routes to balance increasing dominance of the market's major external supplier. The European Commission's Southern Corridor strategy reflects this need

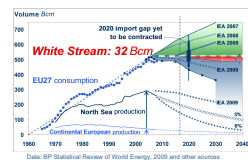
*'several projects make up the Southern Corridor, including Nabucco, the interconnector between Turkey, Greece and Italy (ITGI) and White Stream' — Günther OETTINGER, Energy Commissioner*

Remarks at the Transcaucasian Gas Conference, Nalchik, 14 April 2010

White Stream is a Priority Project of the EU and an integral component of Europe's Southern Corridor. White Stream and Nabucco are 'mutually reinforcing'

### Market need

White Stream is needed to replace declining production. Its flexible scalability responds to the uncertain timing of the market's future demand growth. Source and route diversity helps restore gas as Europe's preferred fuel



White Stream Pipeline Company Limited

contact: Ray Tomkins  
Director of Commercial Development

Information current as of April 2010



White Stream gas pipeline routes and supply corridors

### Gas supply

The Caspian basin gas resource is enormous. Initial gas can be supplied from offshore fields under development. Azerbaijan aspires to export 50 Bcm/y. Shah Deniz 2 capacity will be 16 Bcm/y, double Stage 1 of White Stream. Trans-Caspian reserves offer large upside for subsequent increased supply. Turkmenistan has the potential for an exportable surplus of 150 to 190 Bcm/y by 2030 and is seeking an initial agreement with Europe for at least 30 Bcm/y. Kazakhstan plans to increase its gas production from 30 Bcm to over 70 Bcm by 2015, with much of the 40 Bcm/y increase available for export.

### Current status

The company's studies — supported with co-funding from the European Commission's TEN-E programme with the official sponsorship of the governments of Romania, Poland and Lithuania — confirm the legal, technical, economic and commercial viability as well as the security of supply benefits of White Stream

White Stream has an MOU in place with the Government of Georgia, signed in March 2009

Official support and public statements  
The European Commission  
Romania, Poland, Lithuania  
Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan

### Project pipeline characteristics

There are no legal barriers to crossing the Black Sea  
Technology: proven in operation in the Black Sea  
Diameter: onshore Ø42" / offshore Ø28"  
Water depth: maximum approx 2150m  
Length of offshore section (direct to Romania): 11000m  
Capacity: 8 initially, expanding to 16 then 32 Bcm/y  
Flexibility: built up in stages, first 8 Bcm is viable alone  
Optionality: inherent in route and timing of each stage

### Development schedule

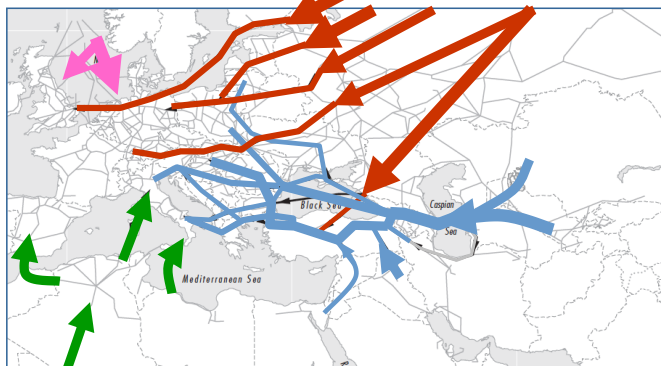
Seed capital invested 2007-10  
Route reconnaissance, scoping and agreements 2011  
Route survey, ESIA, permits and consents 2012

### Permitted package

Design, contracts, final investment decision 2013-14  
Construction of 1<sup>st</sup> 8 Bcm/y capacity 2014-16

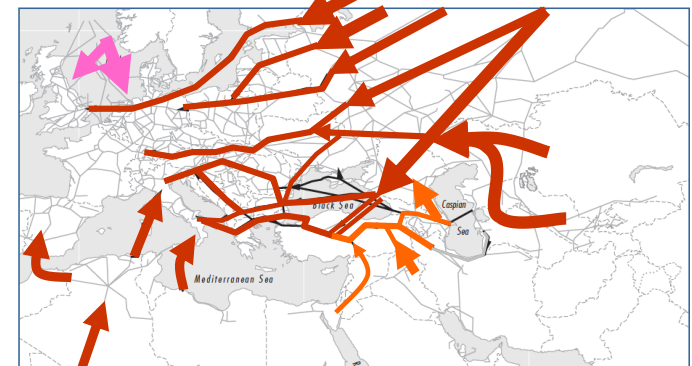
Commissioning and commercial operation 2017

## The EU Southern Corridor vision



- A mutually reinforcing set of pipelines in the Southern Corridor diversifies gas sources *and* routes
- This helps balance the dominant supplier's commercial position, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe
- Along with North African and North Sea gas plus LNG, the security of supply is bolstered and EU gas market competitiveness is enhanced

## The dominant supplier strategy



- The dominant supplier controls all sources and pipeline routes to Europe from the east
- Monopoly transit from the south-east severely limits the flows from the Caspian via Turkey
- Central and Eastern Europe 100% dependent on the dominant supplier for gas imports
- The dominant supplier leverages involvement in North African gas (eg Sonatrach asset swap, Trans-Sahara pipeline)
- Fully independent sources become limited to declining indigenous and North Sea gas plus LNG, which are least effective in providing diversity for Central and Eastern Europe

# Energy Security

## The Russia-Germany gas trade



Former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder loses his entire staff after refusing to resign from Russian energy company boards

Source: Globe and Mail 1 Mar 2022, also reported by Reuters

### European natural gas trade movements by pipeline, 2020

**Vladimir PUTIN**  
President

7 May 2000 – 7 May 2008

Prime Minister

8 May 2008 – 7 May 2012

President

7 May 2012 – present

**Gerhard SCHRÖDER**  
Chancellor

27 Oct 1998 – 22 Nov 2005

Nord Stream Chairman

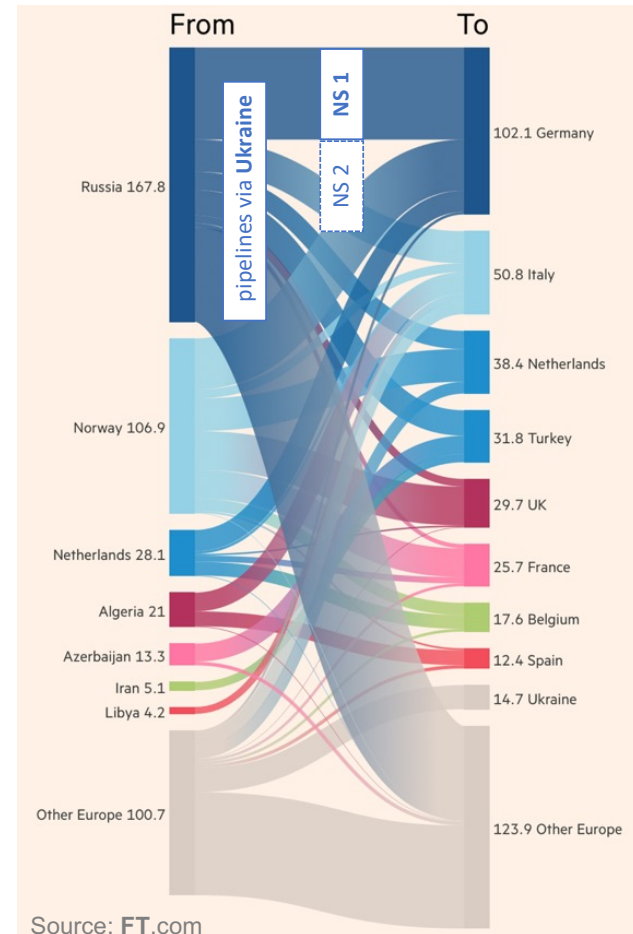
Nov 2005 – 21 May 2022

Gazprom board

4 Feb 2022 – 21 May 2022

Rosneft board

16 Feb 2022 – 21 May 2022



# Three major policy blunders

## GERMANY

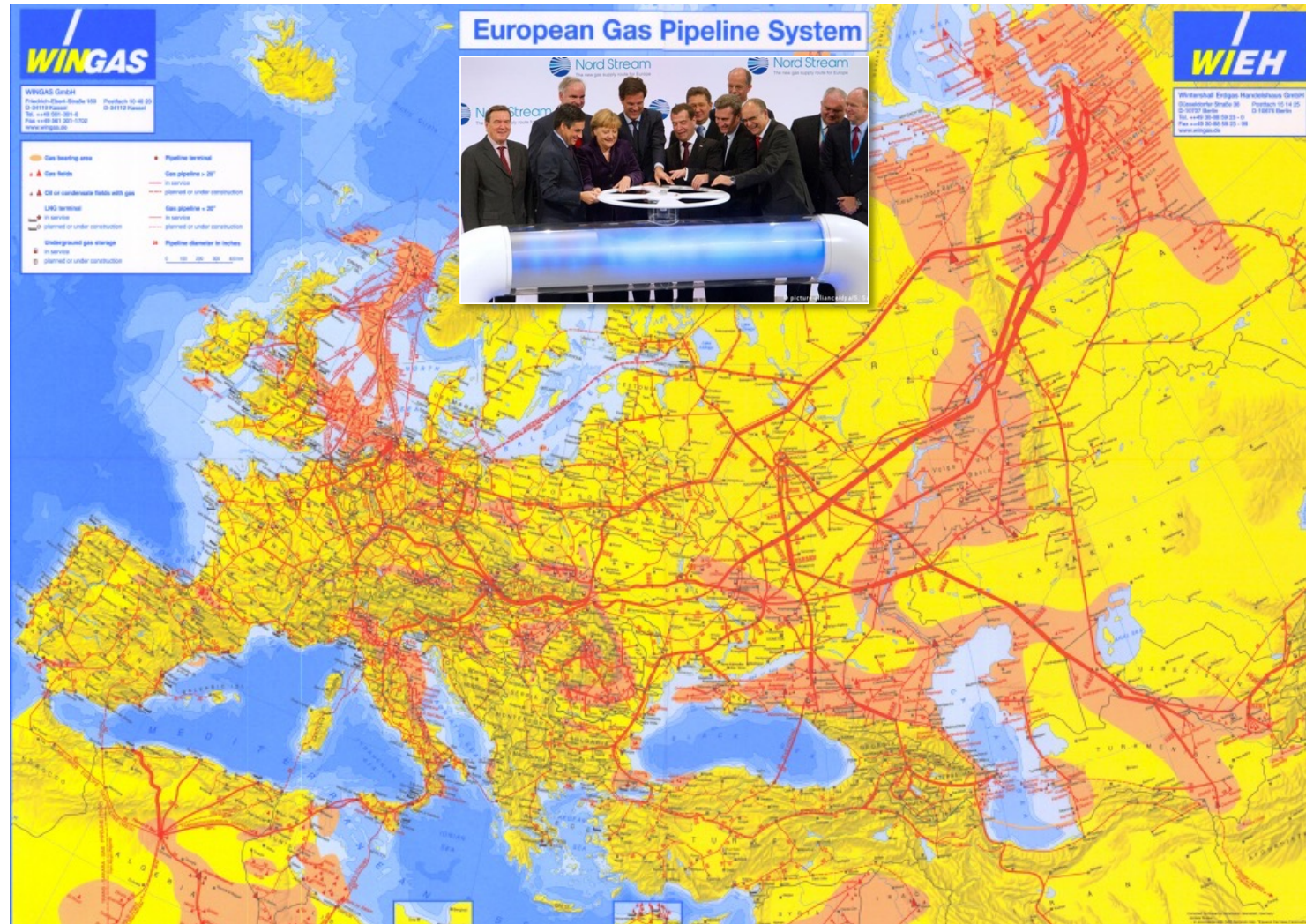
1. **Renewables:** naïve over-reliance on wind and solar
2. **Gas:** neglecting importance of security of supply
3. **Nuclear** energy rejected

### Two big natural **disadvantages:**

- Major energy **IMPORTER**
- Lower **QUALITY** renewables

### Two big inherent **advantages:**

- Huge **INTERCONNECTIVITY**
- Very strong **NETWORKS**



# Three major policy blunders

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## AUSTRALIA

1. **Renewables:** naïve over-reliance on wind and solar
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### Two big inherent **disadvantages:**

- No **INTERCONNECTIVITY**
- Very weak **NETWORKS**

### Two big natural **advantages:**

- Major energy **EXPORTER**
- Higher **QUALITY** renewables



“...a growing number of experienced engineers and power system experts in Australia who are deeply concerned about the current activities and plans for deep penetration of intermittent renewable sources in the eastern grid.”

“We propose prudent and urgent preparation of **PLAN B**, including SMRs, to anchor reliable, and predictable provision of electrical energy to consumers.”

Dr Adi Paterson  
Founder and Principal: Siyeva Consulting  
15 Anzac Street

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

#### ENERGY POLICY

A group of energy and energy system experts will reflect in detail on electricity production and distribution undertaken in the context of very global and regional settings must be considered. The group shares a common concern strongly evidenced by the Eastern Australia blackout to educate and inform the 227 million Australians.

The challenge of climate change is real. Emissions are the lowest carbon, safe and secure. Engineering and a credit rating agency.

As a coordinator of this major project, I have invited some 20 engineers and power system experts to contribute to a report on deep penetration of intermittent renewable sources. We seek to provide a prudent and urgent of electrical energy to consumers.

We believe that the German case in other countries is a good example. Refereed research has shown that intermittent sources are not a problem if they are considered and their consequences and impacts are taken into account in recent public remarks.

The electricity system in Europe, Germany and Australia is being exposed. The


1. Naïve over-reliance on wind and solar power - backed by government policies and supported, until recently, by overconfident advice. For example, the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Research - a body not dissimilar to CSIRO Energy research groups - has disclosed poor solar output in formal reports.
2. Neglecting/ misunderstanding the importance of the security of supply of gas in the eastern grid.
3. Premature removal of 17 nuclear plants from electricity supply.

Germany's major policy blunders are visible in the eastern grid. They span:

 **Germany & Australia** 

Making the same big blunders:

1. **Renewables:** naïve over-reliance on wind and solar
  2. **Gas:** neglecting importance of security of supply
  3. **Nuclear energy rejected**
- and we could also add:
4. **Coal demonisation**
  5. **Industrial neglect**
  6. **Blinkered environmentalism**

Yours sincerely,  


Dr Adi Paterson


BSc, PhD (Cape Town), Hon DSc (Wollongong), FSTE, Hon FIEAust, ERSA  
Encl.

A nighttime photograph of the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C. The building is illuminated, and the city lights are visible in the background. The sky is dark with some clouds. The quote "Energy security *IS* national security." is overlaid on the image in white text.

“Energy security *IS* national security.”



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

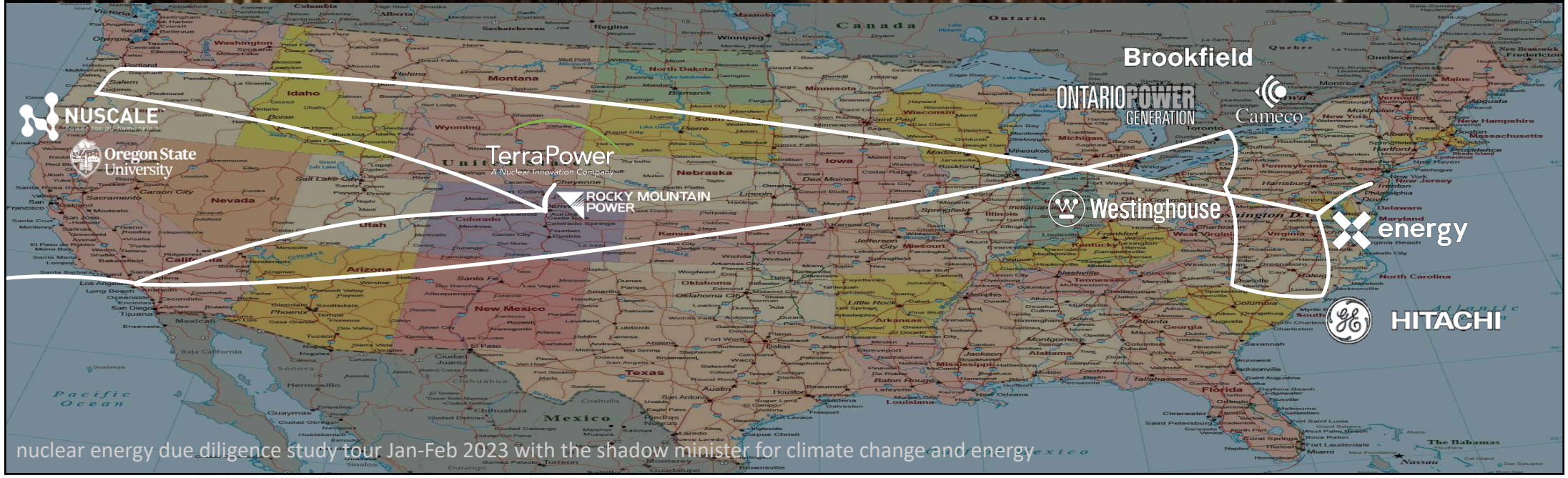
 **BOUNDARY  
STONE**

 **NEI** NUCLEAR  
ENERGY  
INSTITUTE

 DATA FOR **PROGRESS**

 **THIRD WAY**

**CLEARPATH**



**NUSCALE**

 **Oregon State  
University**

**TerraPower**  
A Nuclear Innovation Company

 **ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
POWER**

**Brookfield**  
 **ONTARIO POWER  
GENERATION**

 **Cameco**

 **Westinghouse**

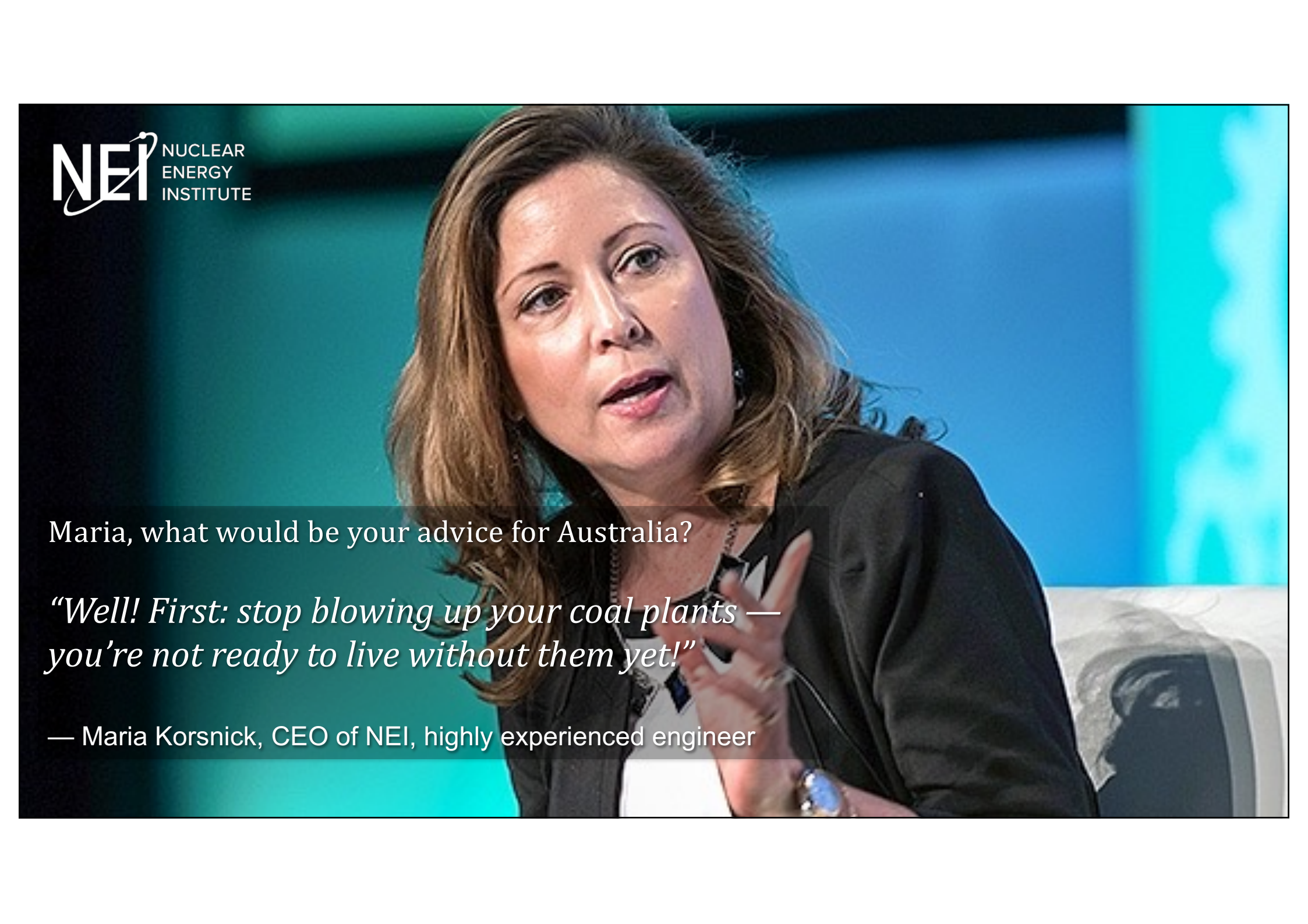
 **energy**



**HITACHI**

nuclear energy due diligence study tour Jan-Feb 2023 with the shadow minister for climate change and energy





Maria, what would be your advice for Australia?

*“Well! First: stop blowing up your coal plants — you’re not ready to live without them yet!”*

— Maria Korsnick, CEO of NEI, highly experienced engineer

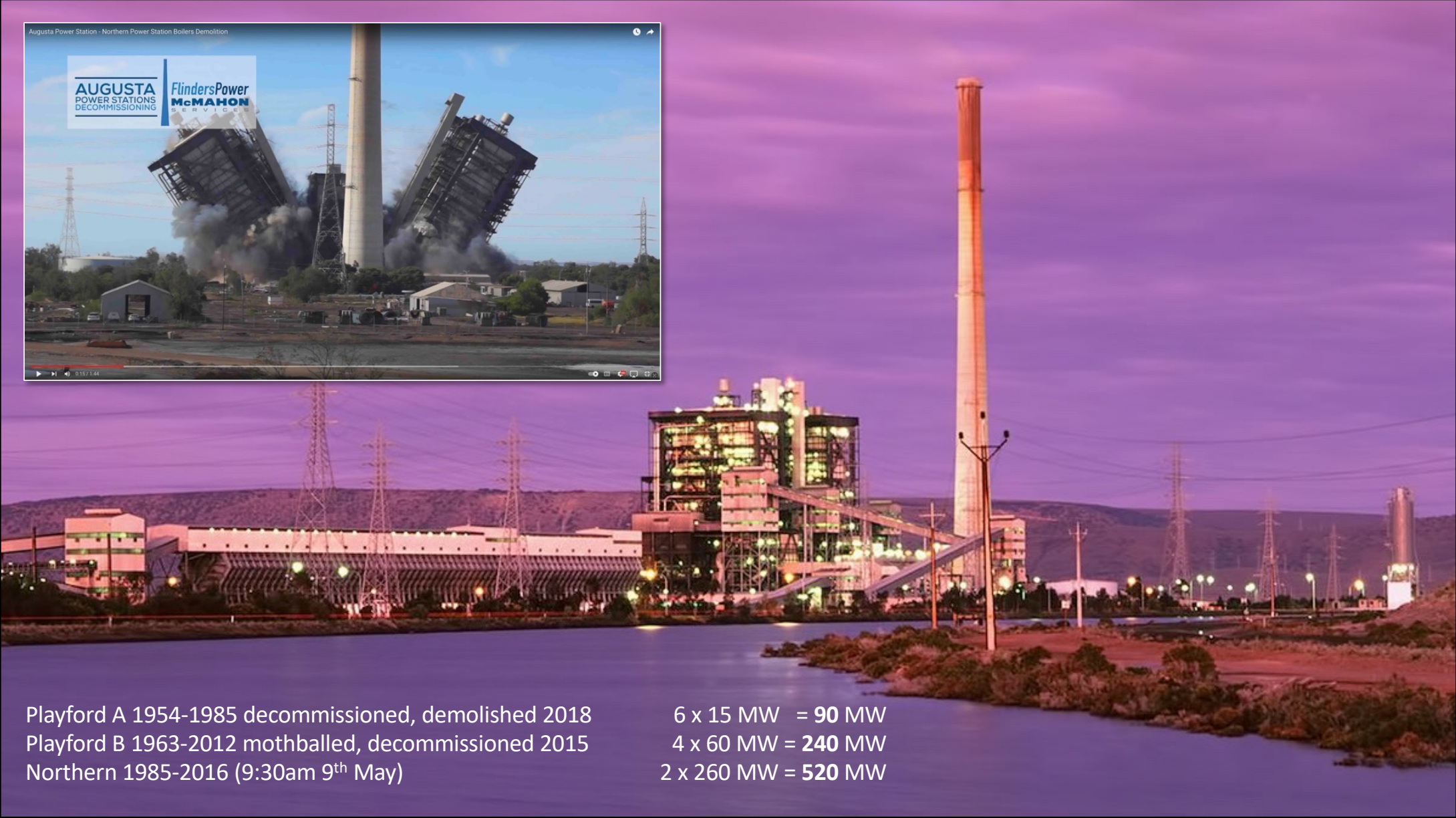
# Energy security

**COAL  
CLOSURES  
DARK AGE**

**Kevin You**

**AUSTRALIA'S  
RIGHTFUL  
PLACE**

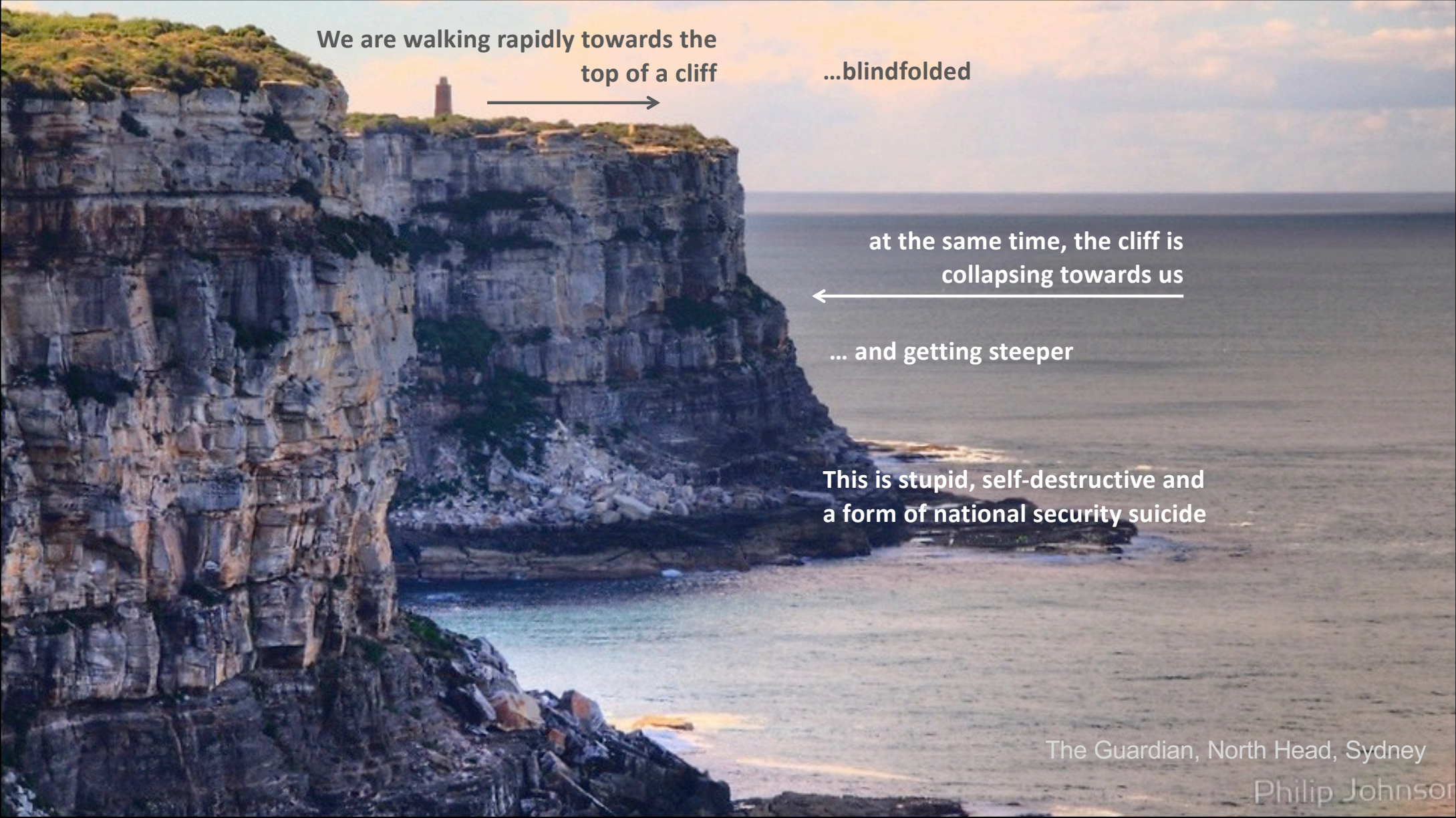
**Scott Hargreaves**



Playford A 1954-1985 decommissioned, demolished 2018  
Playford B 1963-2012 mothballed, decommissioned 2015  
Northern 1985-2016 (9:30am 9<sup>th</sup> May)

6 x 15 MW = 90 MW  
4 x 60 MW = 240 MW  
2 x 260 MW = 520 MW

Australia's burning platform



We are walking rapidly towards the  
top of a cliff

...blindfolded

at the same time, the cliff is  
collapsing towards us

... and getting steeper

This is stupid, self-destructive and  
a form of national security suicide

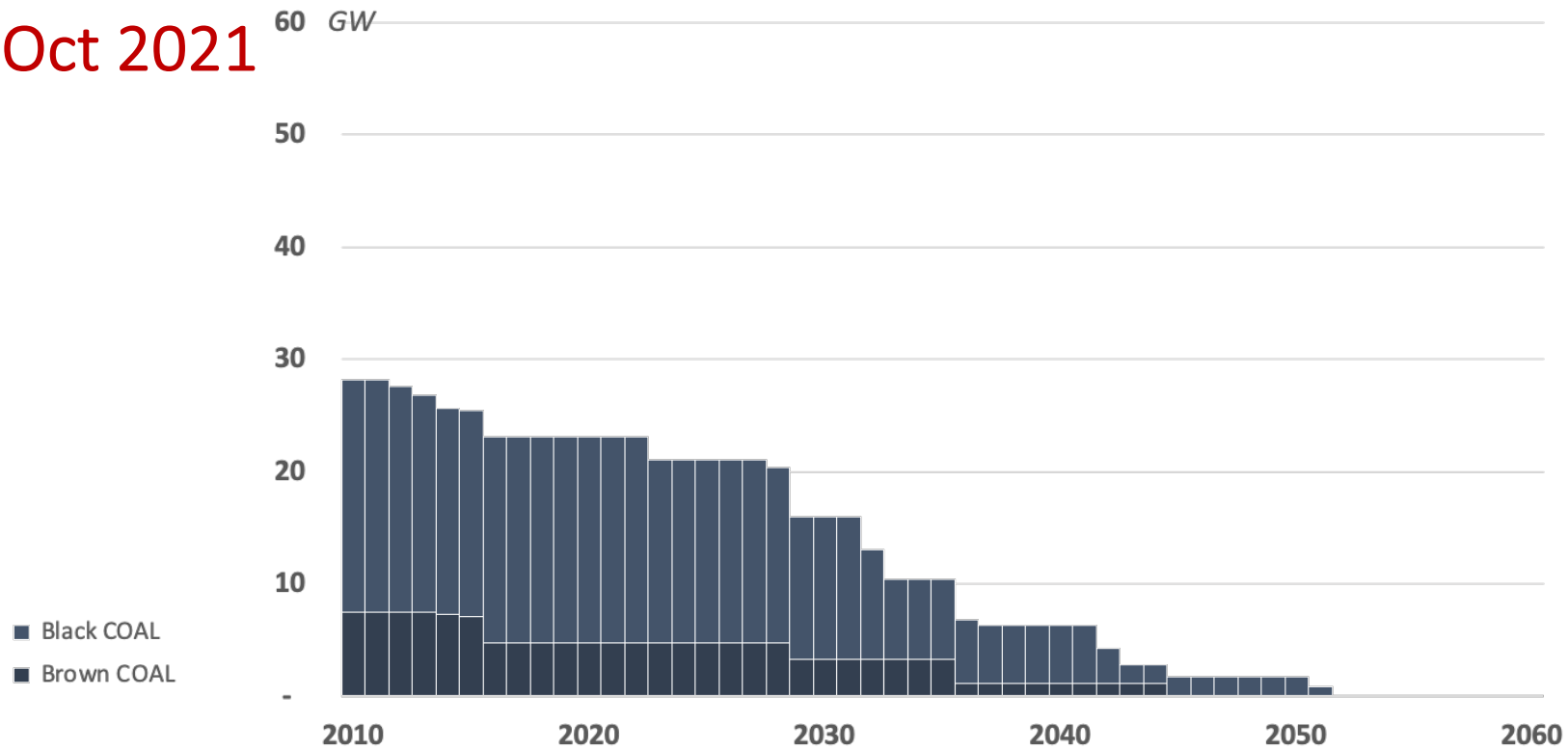
The Guardian, North Head, Sydney

Philip Johnson

# Energy Security

CONTEXT

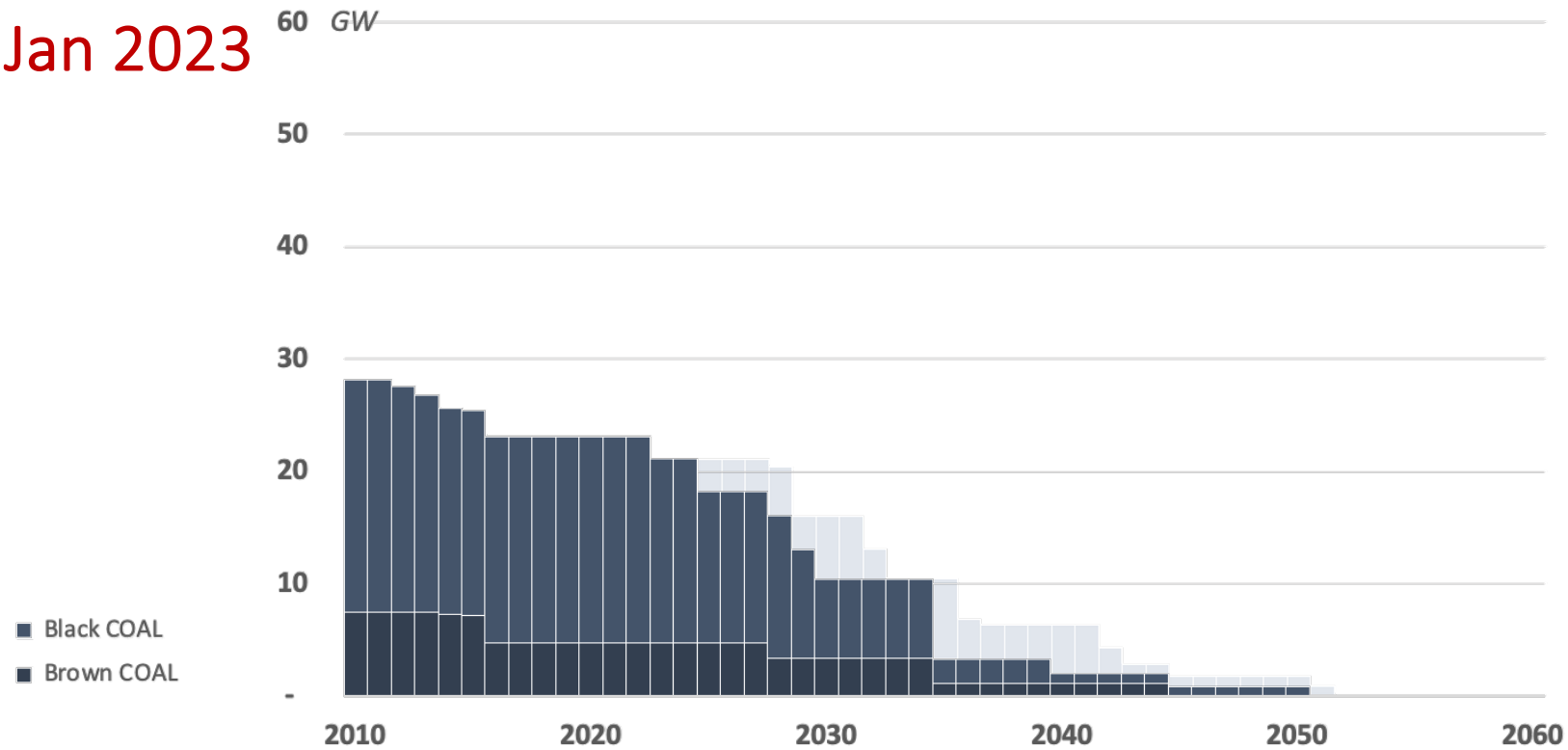
Oct 2021



# Energy Security

CONTEXT

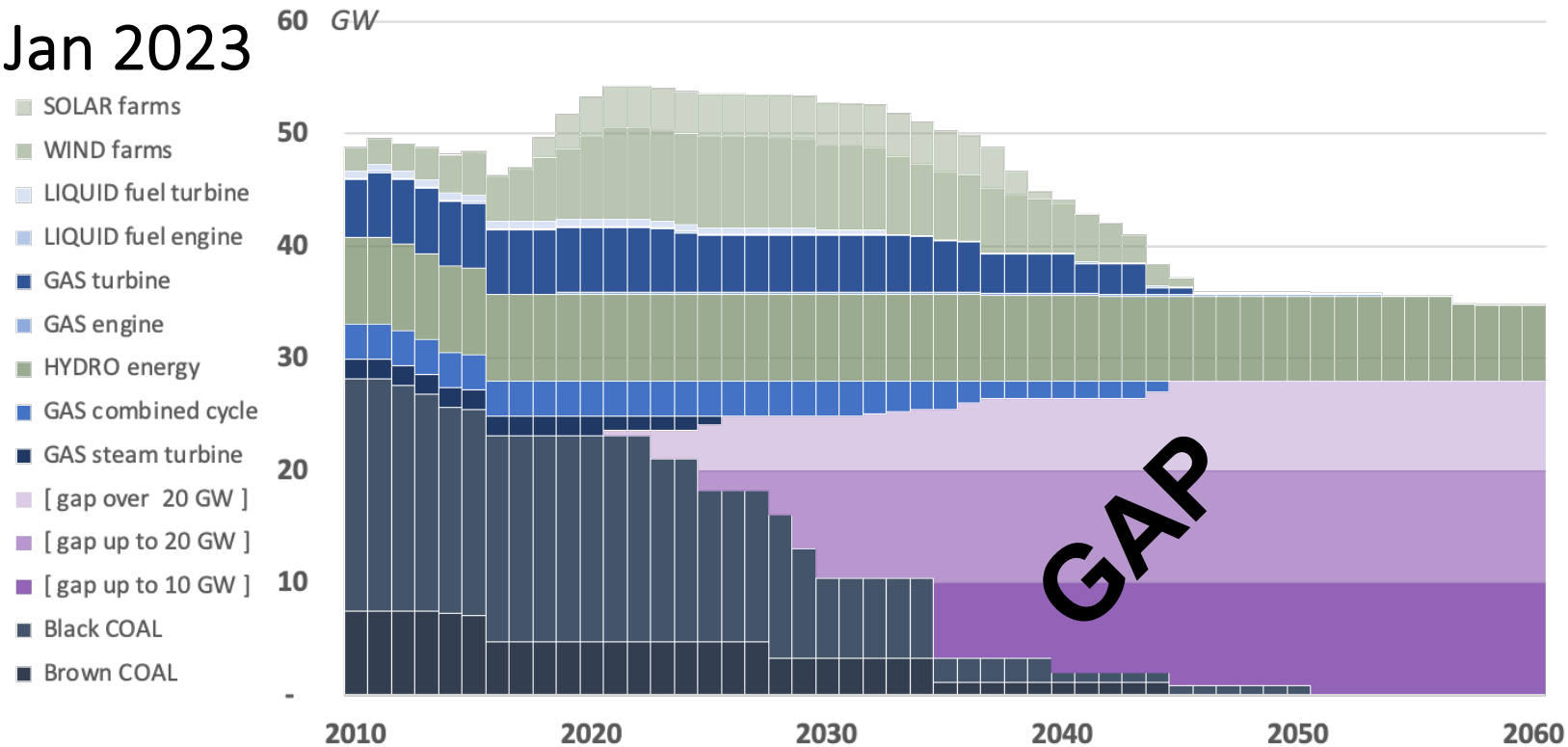
Jan 2023



# Energy Security

## CONTEXT

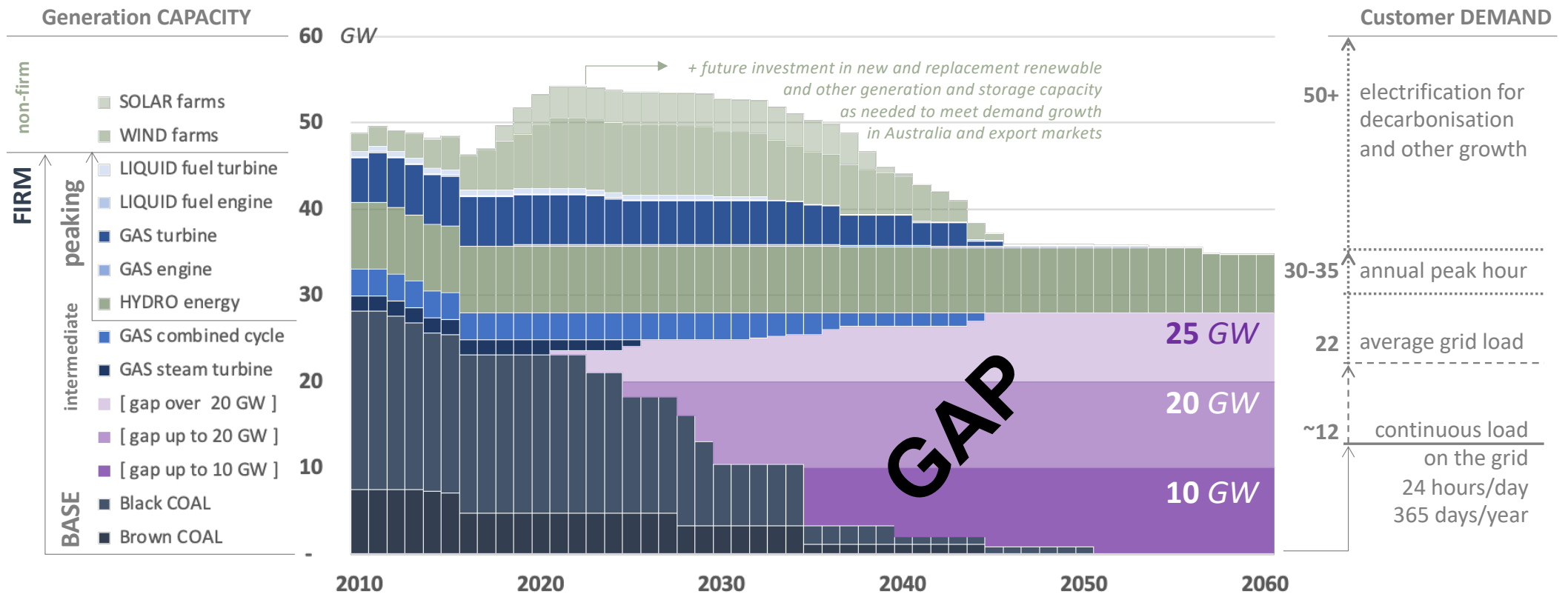
Jan 2023



Source: adapted from *What would be required*, Figure 1, with updated data



# Energy Security

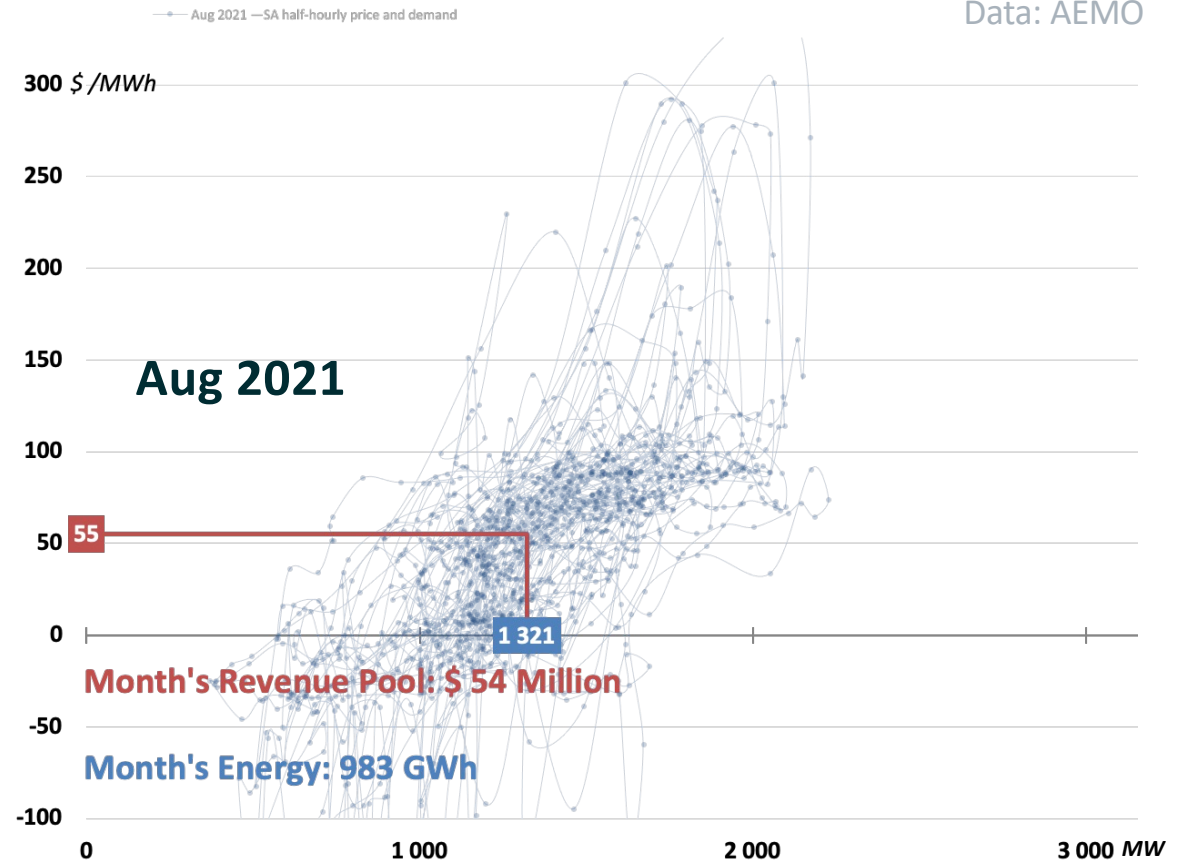
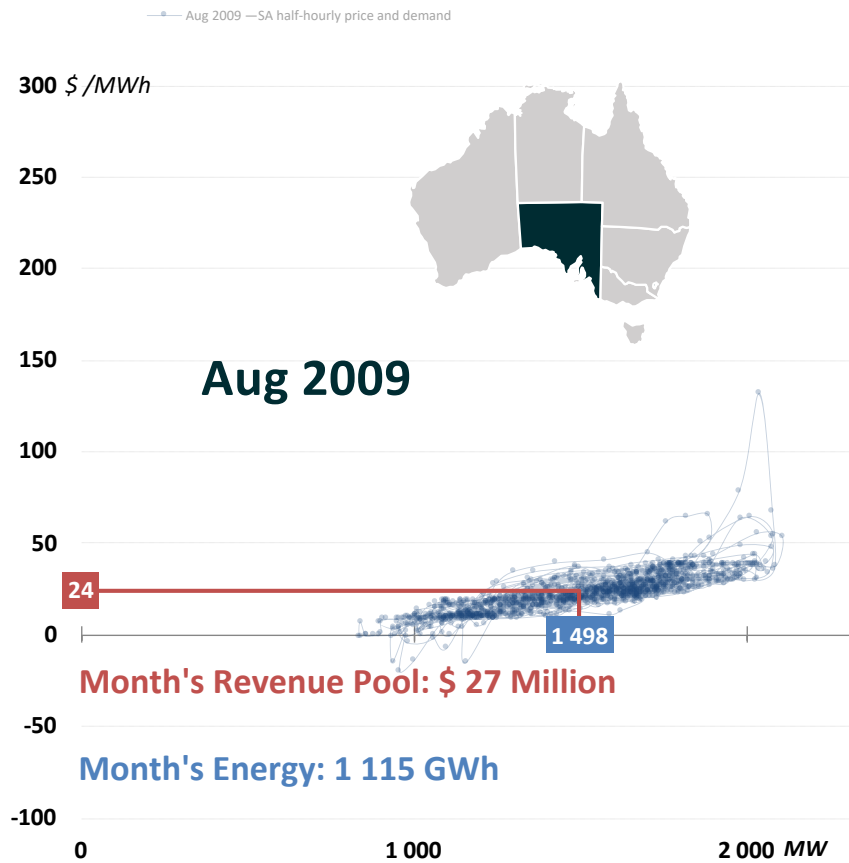


Source: adapted from *What would be required*, Figure 1, with updated data

# Energy Security

## electricity spot prices in South Australia, Aug '09 & '21

Data: AEMO



# Energy security

## One part of the problem

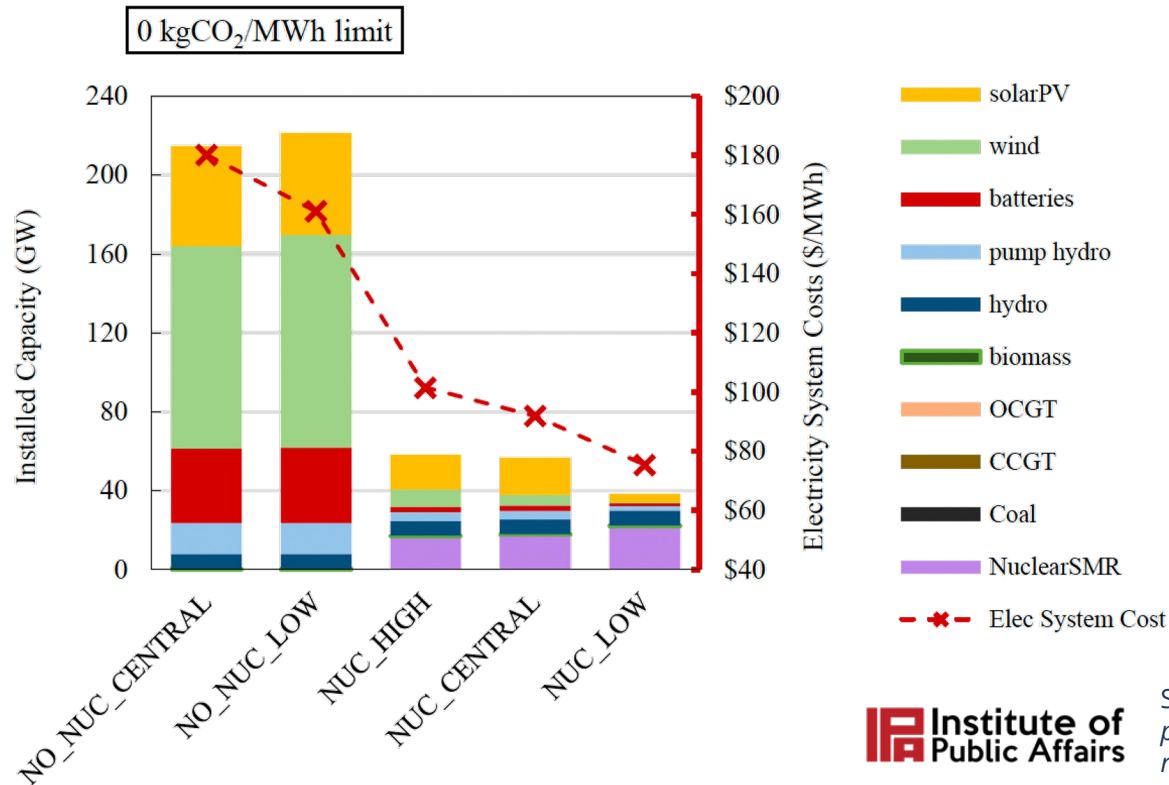
“No-one can produce a bankable price forecast  
of the Australian electricity market today”

—a senior banker with 25 years of experience  
financing the Australian energy sector

Our research in mid-2017 found that this view is universally held  
by the major Australian banks and the major international banks  
active in Australian energy, resources and infrastructure financing

# Energy security

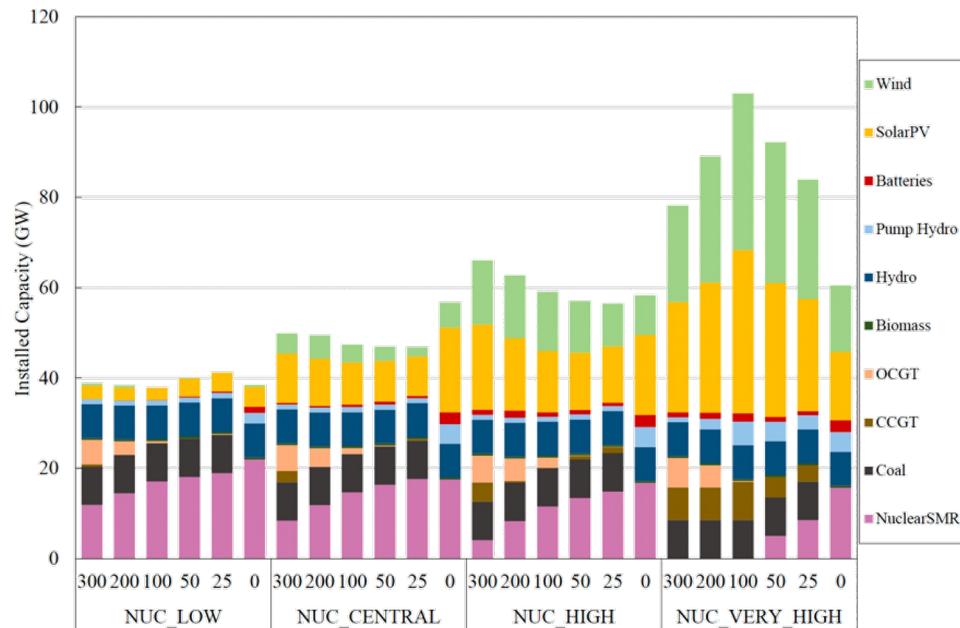
## Capacity & average system costs at the limit



- All-renewable vs nuclear allowed:
- enormous difference in capacity
  - dramatic reduction in footprint
  - SMRs can work with solar & wind
  - enormous difference in costs
  - nuclear has a role at all cost ranges
  - costs are from the UQ report
  - Note: results are subject to review

# Energy security

## Installed capacity by emission and cost cases



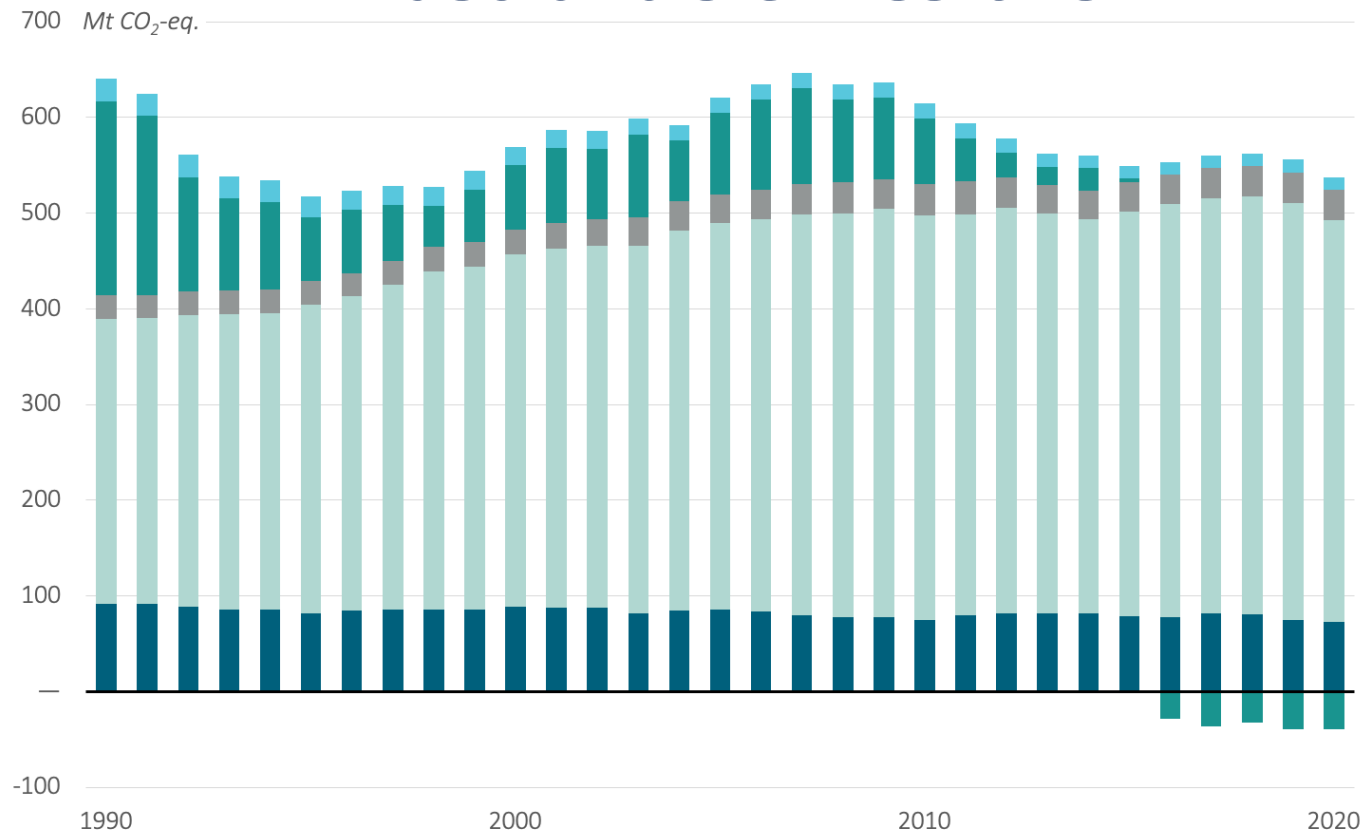
GHG emissions limit (kgCO<sub>2</sub>/MWh) and CAPEX case considered

Source: Rioseco, *Understanding the opportunities and costs of planning and operating electricity systems with high shares of variable renewable energy sources*, UQ (forthcoming: **do not cite**)

- Renewable AND nuclear allowed
- Wind and solar is supplemental
- Other capacity needed to meet peak
- Nuclear not very sensitive to capital cost
- Coal plants **very** valuable to the system
- Coal—**not** gas—is last thermal plant to go
- Batteries have a relatively small role
- Pumped hydro has a small role
- Results very different from *Net Zero* study
- Note: results are subject to review

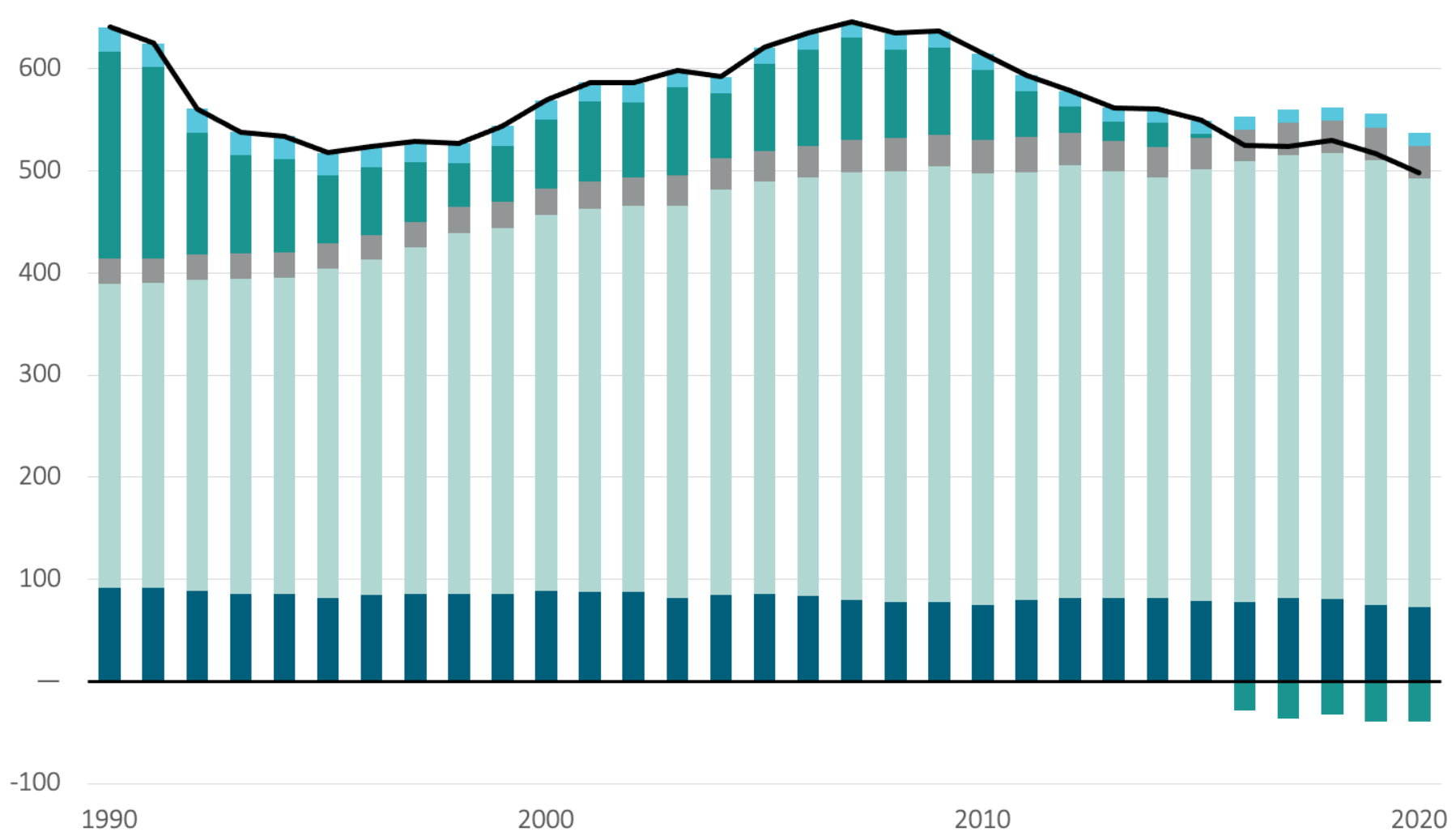
# Energy Security

## Australia's emissions



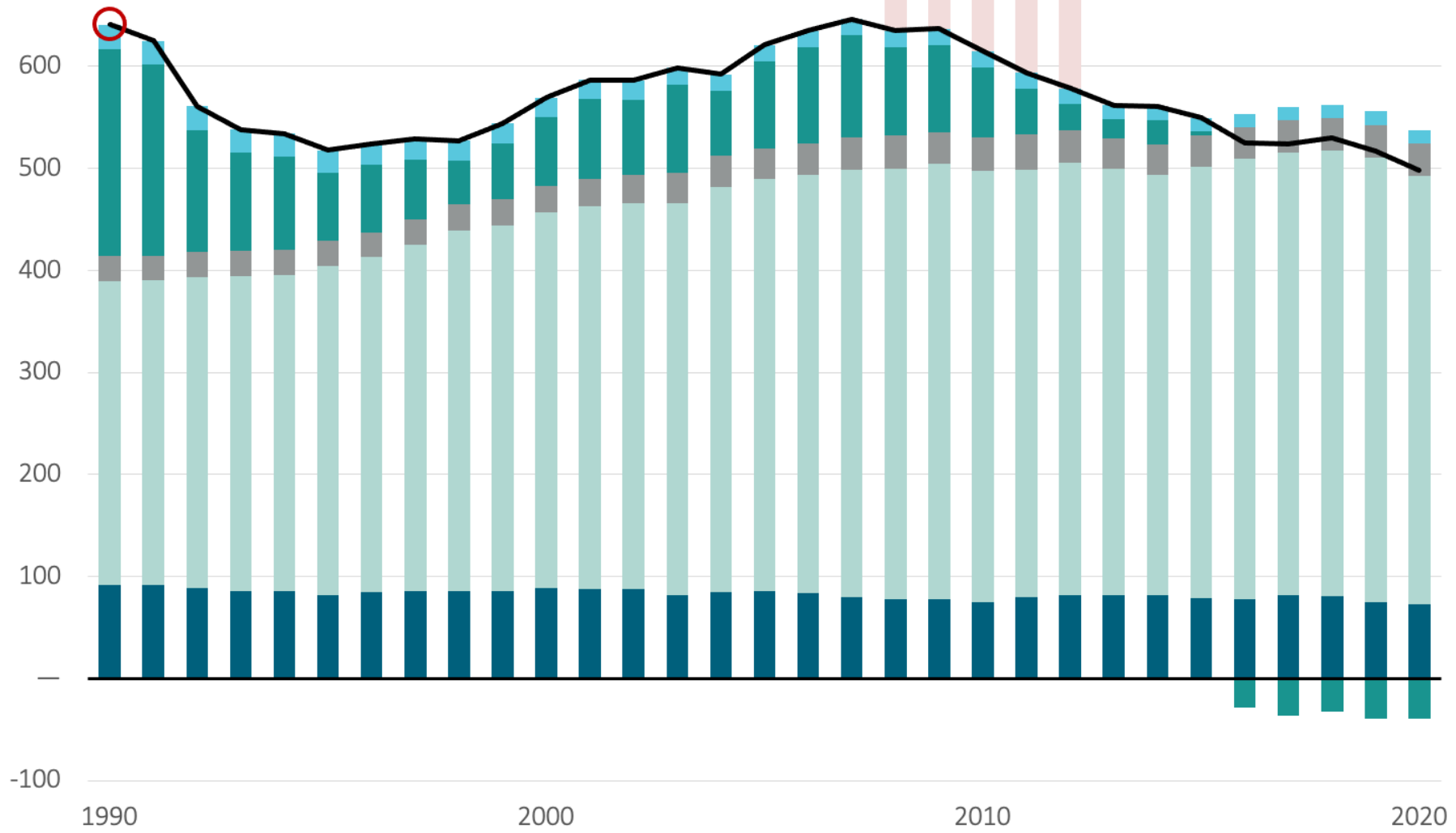
Source: National Greenhouse Gas accounts: <https://greenhouseaccounts.climatechange.gov.au>

700 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq.



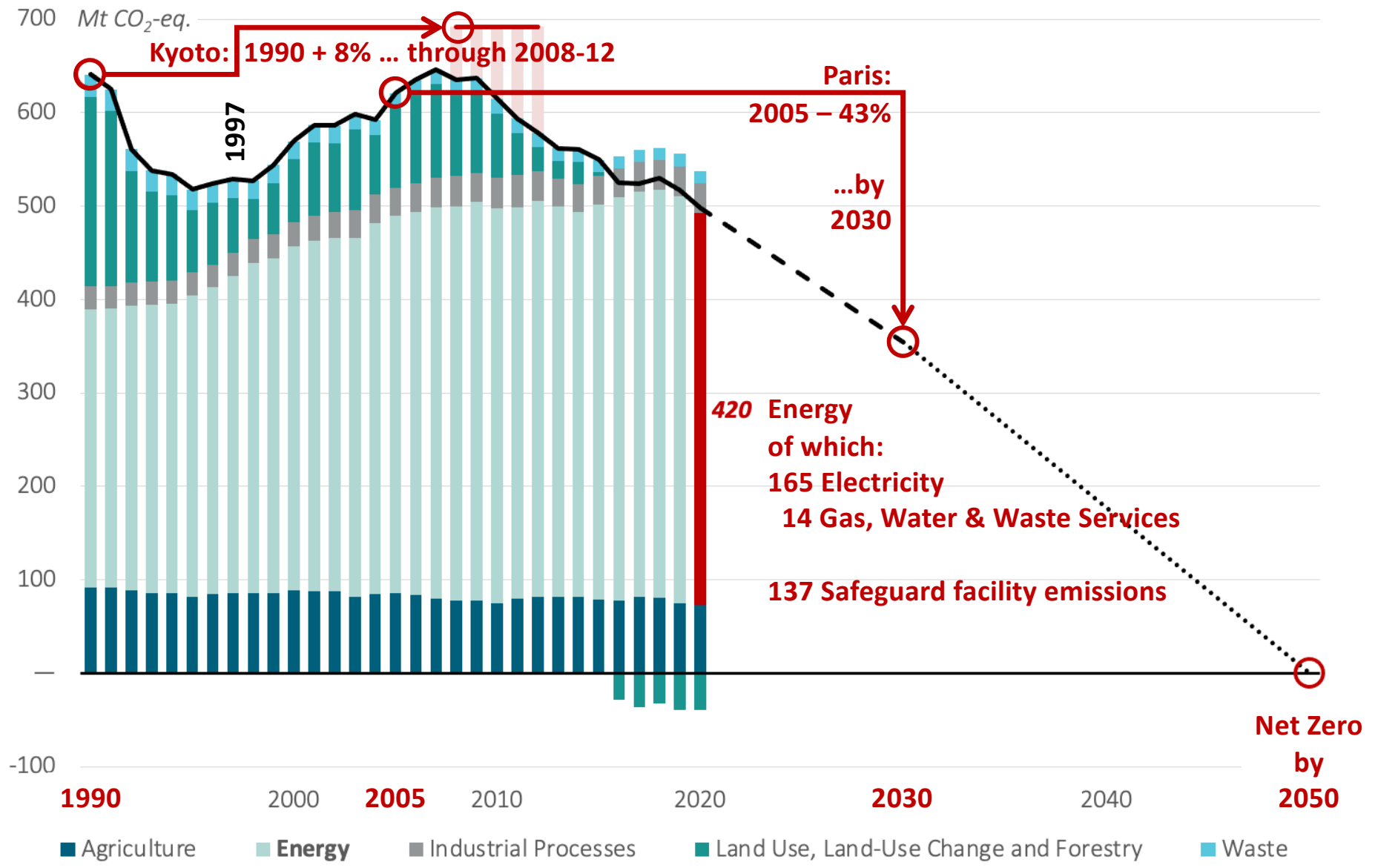
■ Agriculture   ■ Energy   ■ Industrial Processes   ■ Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry   ■ Waste

700 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq.



■ Agriculture   ■ Energy   ■ Industrial Processes   ■ Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry   ■ Waste







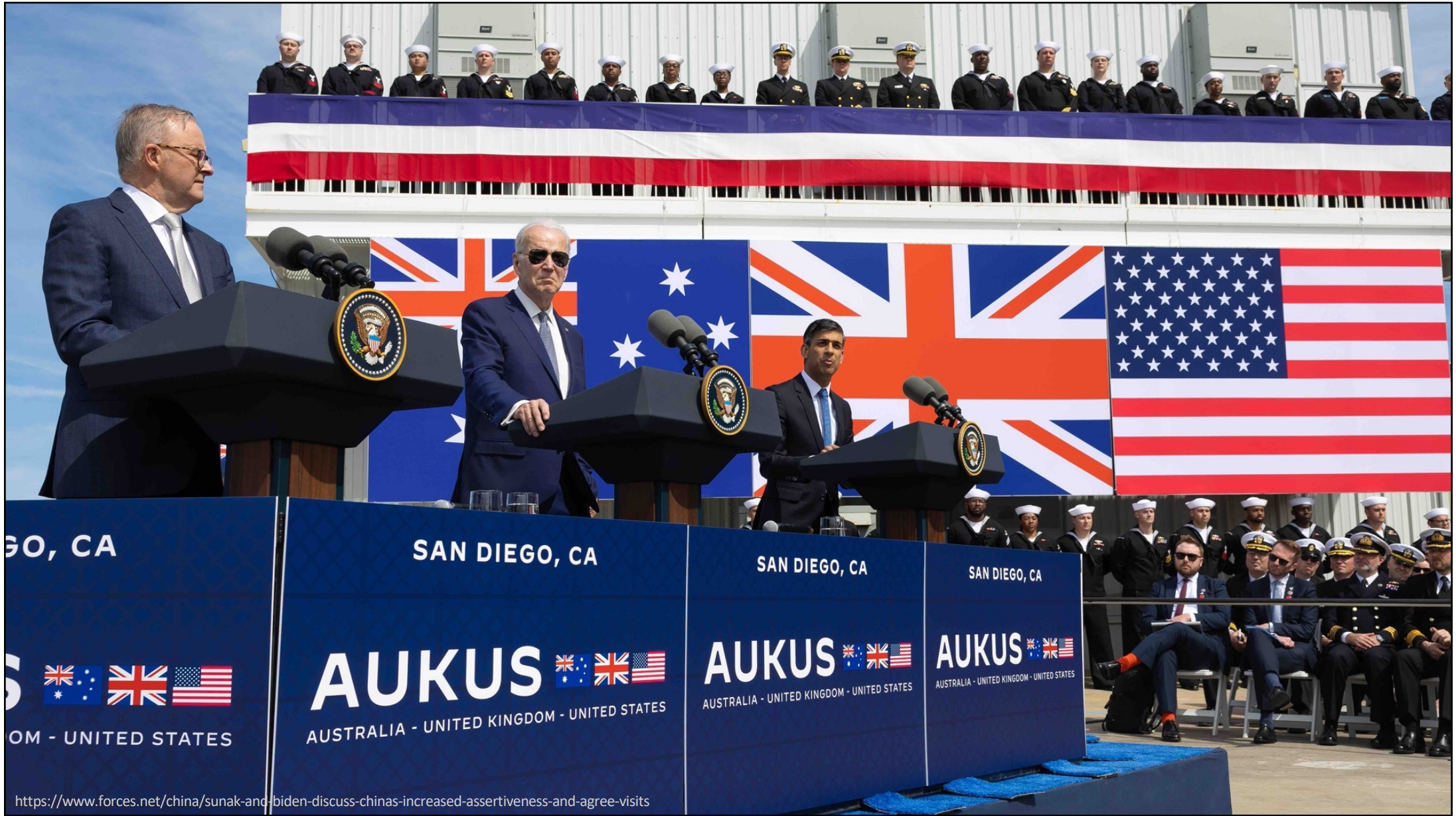
12 Jun 2021



15 Sep 2021

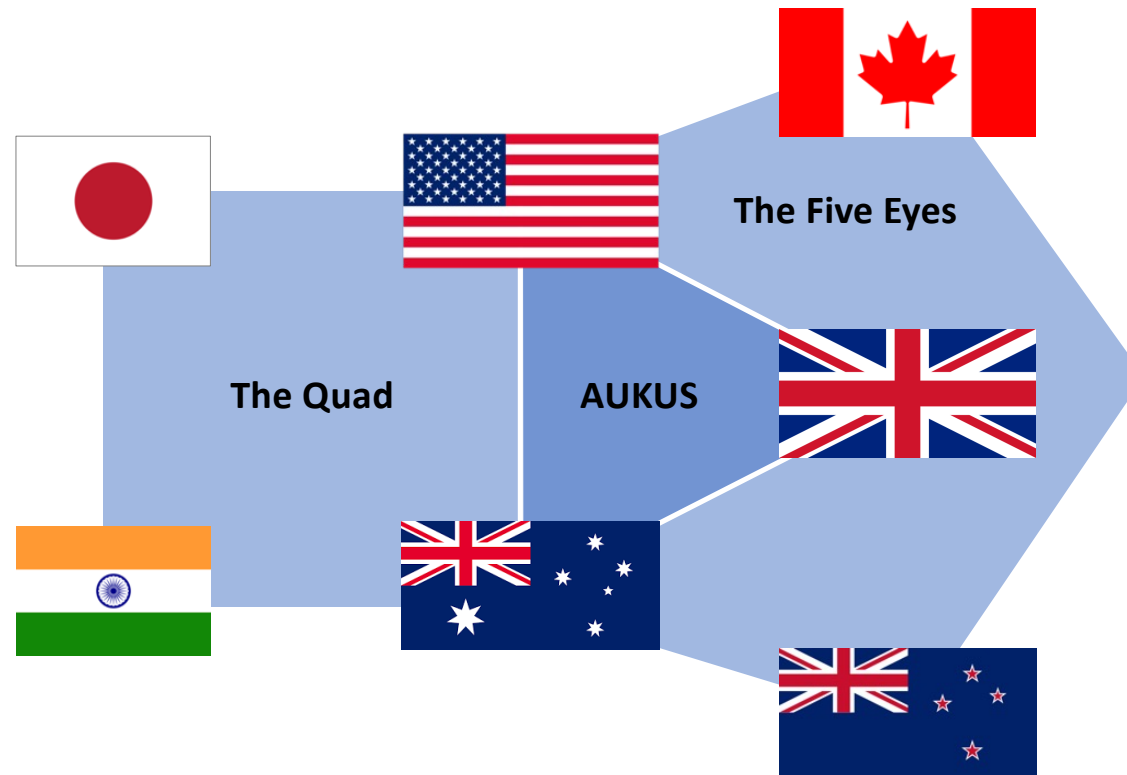


2 Nov 2021



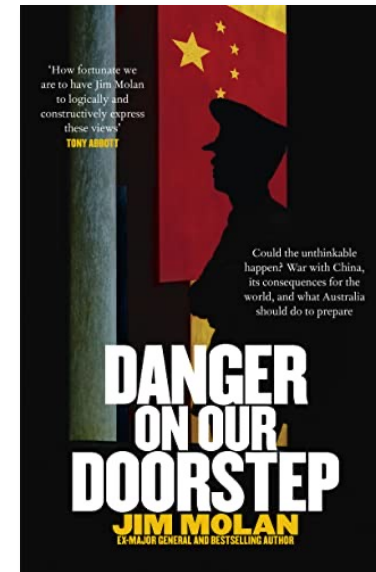
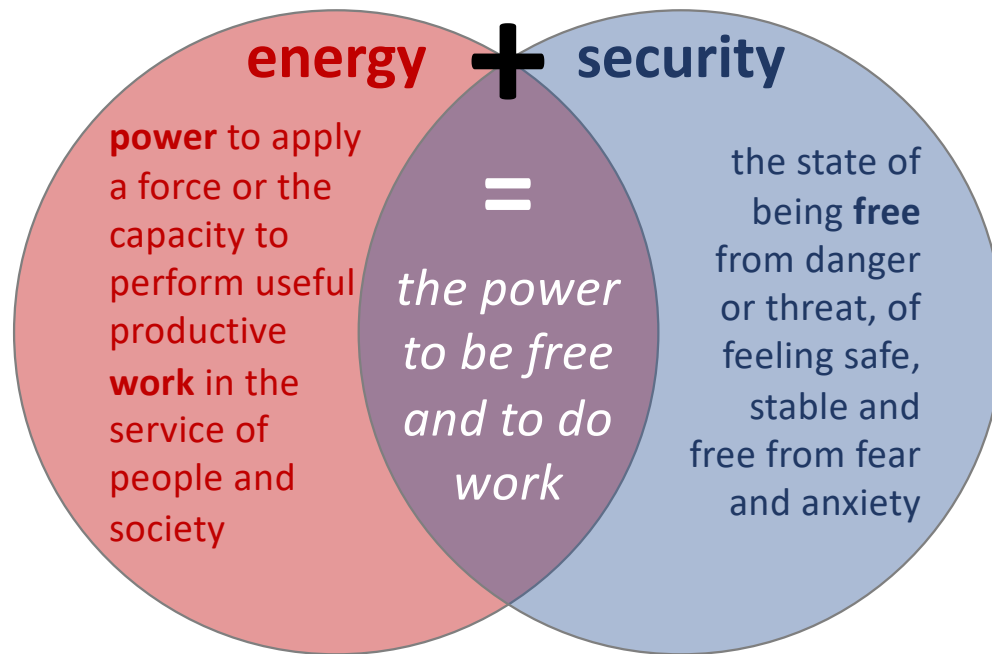
<https://www.forces.net/china/sunak-and-biden-discuss-chinas-increased-assertiveness-and-agree-visits>

# Energy Security



# Energy Security

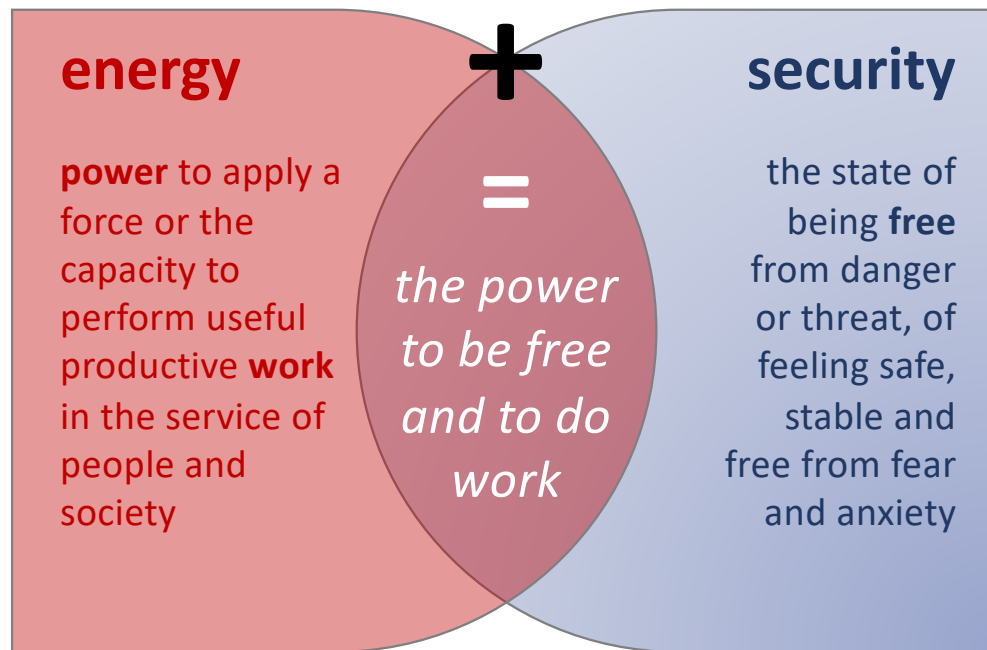
is inextricably linked with national security



Australia needs a *National Security Strategy*  
**Energy security** is an indispensable part  
Energy and national security are interlinked

# Energy Security

is deeply connected with the IPA's programmes



The definitions of energy and security are drawn from *The Oxford English Dictionary*  
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## affects

*and is affected by:*

- Climate Change and Energy
- Rights and Freedoms
- the Dignity of Work
- Western Civilisation
- the Australian Way of Life

Other current research programs at the IPA

# Energy Security

Scott Hargreaves  
Executive Director

"The freedom to take responsibility for your own life, family, business and community is fundamental to the Australian way of life. It is this freedom that attracts people from all over the world – it must be preserved and promoted."

# Energy Security

## Success measures and the longer-term outlook

**2020s**



blowing up  
our coal plants  
Look after them:  
we still need them  
to look after us.  
We need to secure our  
gas supplies and exports  
of commodities

**2030s**

**EXERCISE**

real options created  
in the 2020s  
  
to deploy Mini & Small  
Modular Reactors (SMRs)  
when and where needed

**2040s**

**CONSOLIDATE**

gains from a system  
that is secure  
low cost and has  
minimal footprint:  
  
physical, visual,  
environmental and  
emissions



# Institute of Public Affairs

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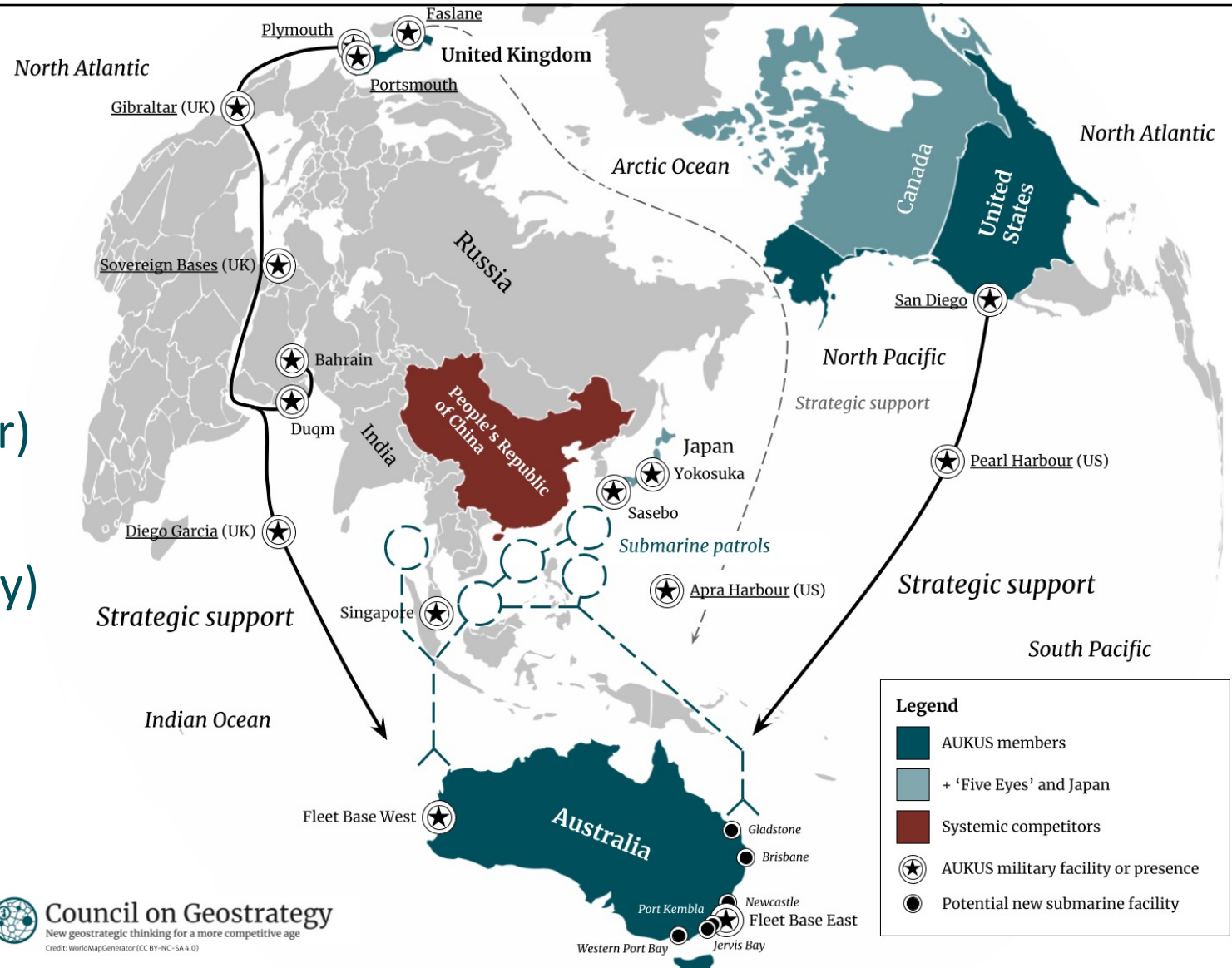
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For more information visit [ipa.org.au](http://ipa.org.au)

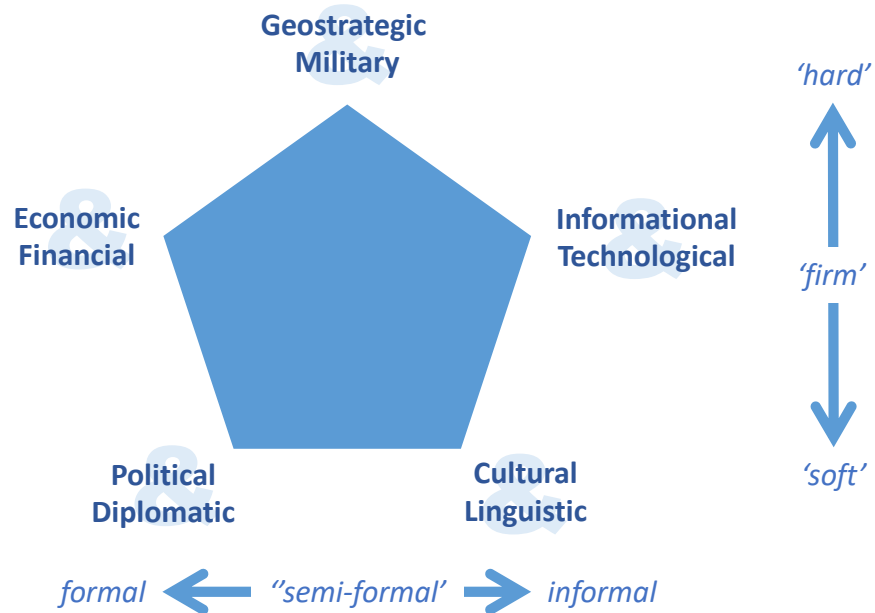


# The geopolitics of AUKUS

- propulsion (power)
- endurance (energy)



# The five vertices of international power



**Australia** is a middle power

Ranking nowhere near the great powers

Hence not 'powerful' measured on the five axes of international power

However, Australia does have:

- very significant soft power
- substantial 'firm' power
- very significant 'positional power' in a geostrategic sense

*The value of these factors tends to be overlooked, or under-estimated by Australians, companies and governments*