



30 SEP, 2021

## Key role for nuke power

Adelaide Advertiser, Adelaide

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**CLARE PEDDIE**

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**REPORT PAGE 7**

# Nuclear power's key role

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sons Lawyers special counsel Kyra Reznikov.

“We have South Australian laws that say we can’t even put money into doing research and assessment and planning for having nuclear facilities.”

Ms Reznikov, who was part of a Fearless Conversations panel to discuss opportunities and challenges in the environment sector, said current law was designed to “shut down that (nuclear) conversation”.

Frazer-Nash Consultancy energy analyst Dr Ben Heard said we needed to put all of the technology on the table and “small modular reactors” of the future offered an opportunity to grow a new SA industry.

“SA itself might only need a limited number of these devices in its particular mix but we could manufacture them ... for the rest of Australia and Southeast Asia,” he said.

The discussion comes as SA has been tasked to build Australia’s nuclear-powered subs fleet in a security pact with the US and the UK called AUKUS.

Dr Heard said the nuclear submarine option meant Australia would establish more relevant knowledge, capability and skills, which could cross over if the nation also decided to pursue nuclear power.

Environmental engineer turned sustainability educator

Laura Trotter said there was “definitely a place in our energy cycle” for nuclear power.

“I’m not antinuclear, I worked at a copper/uranium mine for four years, Olympic Dam, I was a senior environmental engineer there,” she said.

“The big issue around nuclear is the management of waste ... but there are countries that have done it successfully.”

Flinders University global ecology professor Corey Bradshaw said the planet’s future depended on widespread adoption of nuclear fission, which is based on the reaction of an atom splitting.

“Honestly, without fission, we have no chance of making any of the caps that we’re intending to hit for the future, for reductions in emissions and temperature limitations,” Professor Bradshaw said.

“Without fission, with that small (ecological) footprint and high energy density, we’re not going to solve all of the problems.”

The panel called for strong leadership from politicians, universities and media organisations to open discussion with the wider community and seek a social licence for future investment and development.

Ms Reznikov said “politics had got in the way of some smart decision making” but that was “historical”.