CSIRO nobbles nuclear (again) to support Labor's 'cheap renewables' fantasy

28 May—The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation was once a world leader in inventing and developing technologies and industrial processes to improve the lives of Australians, and indeed all mankind. Now, under the direction of the Albanese Labor government, it is actively suppressing them, by producing junk research to support self-destructive policy prescriptions driven by ideology and fealty to vested interests.

The technology in question is nuclear power. The junk research is the annual "GenCost" report, produced in collaboration with federal gas and electricity market manager the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), which purports to show that "firmed renewables" (wind and solar power backed by batteries, pumped hydro and/ or "peaking" gas turbines) are the cheapest pathway for Australia to achieve "net zero" greenhouse gas emissions, and nuclear the most expensive at nearly twice the price. Meanwhile the government refuses to countenance lifting the federal legislative ban on nuclear power, and thereby allow AEMO to do a proper costing in its biennial Integrated System Plan (ISP), despite having effectively admitted the ban is pointless—since if nuclear were really so uneconomical, the "free market" (of which Labor is no less enamoured than the Liberals) would never deign to invest in it anyway. Thus while almost all the world has by now come to see nuclear as absolutely necessary to achieving "net zero" without collapsing civilisation in the process, Australia—despite being by far the most uranium-rich nation on Earth seems determined to remain both figuratively and, if coal plants continue to be shut down with nothing to replace them, soon literally in the dark.

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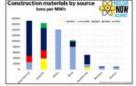
by Rechard Kardon
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The 2022-23 GenCost report used blastantly decognimodelling to hide the neural costs of *renewables" by 19 noring the enormous expense of all fibe major transmission and storage projects which mass for completed by 20301 contract and support them as "suck costs", while assign actions 55/881 the federal Opposition had proposed he is stalled on the sites of resting coal-fired plars thus requiging no new stansmission infracturator at all?. In GenCo 2023-24 the CSIRO performs the same truck by misegen senting cetain economic metric, and sneeday re-defiing others to suit its own purposes; this cost lying absorbt comparative longerity, efficiency and average availability contraction of the plant, and even arbitraryly doubleing the capit nuclear plants; and even arbitraryly doubleing the capit

Misused metrics

First, It must be abled why CSRQ. "Australa's Nation all Science Ageony," is doing economic modelling in the first place, let alone modelling on clearly tailored to support policical appendis with on regard to the actual science involved. This is true not only of its work in the field energy; for example, in 2022 CSRQD published nesearch purporting to show that the Bradfield water deversion scheme in North Queensland, to turn millions of because of Australia's and interior into imgated farmland, we

 "Labor's renewables are cheapest be exploded", A45, 16 Aug. 2 see also A. Moetton, "The "airk cost" bickers that makes response.



Just one example of the massive difference in the construc-

suchrically feasible ... [but] not commercially stable*... to the Australian Ard Sensories reported at the time, howwer, this cancelasian was shared on an occinemic premise dopoettle, Australian governments in the 1900s and early object the stable of the stable of the 190s of the 190s that the project must recorp the cross softly block his stable; jut would have stopped most of the insaturature projects that but! Australia—notably including the wildy successful showsy Mountains Scheme that armed proviously and zerus of the Murray-Durley Basin to Australia's normal gross domestic product (100P) bewern 1949 and 1914; in other words, 1500 (proper the wealth occurrence of the stable of the stable of the wealth occurrence to the stable of the wealth occurrence of the must. Serve were in electricity core progetions accurated in could at best have following to secure top regarding muleso provise. The stable proton occurrence is to provise to the proposition of the stable provise. The first proposition accurated in could at best have following to the stable could be provided the part one can and delectracity or stable provise. But they are not—and delectracity is an and the provise the first proposition of the provise. But they are not—and delectracity so.

An industation, a complete comparative analysis of the contail cities of various prover sources, including transmiss contail cities of various prover sources, including transmiss but by ASSOC and indiced if has been added reproducibly political leaders, analysts and ceregy industry participant to do so, AIMO <u>states on its website</u> that is 15° "demon states that new networkies with meet transmission, times with hydro, hatteries and gas—is the lowest cost way it supply descripts to Australian homes and Instinenses a coal fired generation retires", but adds that the 15° "down single jawe"—including medicar which is harmed nation wide under the Australian Ruddaws which is harmed nation wide under the Australian Ruddaws which is harmed nation wide under the Australian Ruddaws which is harmed nation wide under the Australian Ruddaws which is harmed nation wide under the Australian Ruddaws (2008). ARMO Claim Victoria (1983) and Garwonnester Protection and Rudd versity Conservation Act 1999, as well as by state laws in Victoria (1983) and South Australia (2008). ARMO Claim however that Geric Ost "Shrows that suckee generation in John coal and the as a larger lead in the mean tensessable of the properties of the properties of the John of the Australian from than renewable player coal and the as a larger lead at meet ann renewable and the properties of the properties of the John of the properties of the John of the properties of the John of John

The problem is that GenCast does not model fall system costs. Instead its assessment is based on the ocalled "levelised cost of electricity" (LCOE), which is calculated by dividing lifetime costs ii.e. of installation and operation by the amount of energy produced by each

"CSBO's Braffield Scheme assessment a neultheral Sul", AAS, 28 (ept. 2022).

Excerpt of article by Richard Bardon, *Australian Alert Service*, 29 May 2024. **Download the PDF here to keep reading**.