

CLIMATEInvestment forCAPITALAustralia's RenewableFORUMEnergy Transition

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Dutton's nuclear plan is an expensive fantasy of distraction and disruption

The <u>Climate Capital Forum</u>* is incredulous today with the Coalition Liberal/National party policy announcement that it will pursue an energy policy focused on building nuclear sites in seven locations across regional Australia.

Blair Palese, Founder, Climate Capital Forum said: "The call for nuclear energy in a country with no existing infrastructure or expertise is a distraction designed for one thing: To keep fossil fuels in play; extend the life of damaging and polluting coal and gas; and attract funding support from the fossil fuel industry to the Coalition."

"With state governments and Liberals around the country ruling it out of hand, it's a road to nowhere," Palese said.

"Investors in the energy transition need certainty. The Opposition Coalition's nuclear distraction is foolhardy and fraught with risk – it's risky on financing, risky on the impossibly long delivery time and risky on skills capacity."

"Extremely affordable and available renewable energy and battery storage are the best opportunities for Australia as an economic and jobs opportunity to build our future economy that will allow us to be a decarbonising world leader. To distract from that is economically foolish and exposes Dutton as only interested in distraction rather than legitimate policy for the energy transition already underway."

"We call on sensible members of the Coalition, those who are focused on developing responsible, considered, affordable and evidence-based policy, to reject this pathway immediately," said Palese.

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*The Climate Capital Forum is a network of investors, climate finance experts and philanthropists working to ensure Australia makes the most of the economic opportunities of global move to decarbonise.