

Is Australia ready for nuclear energy?

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No. But it could be.

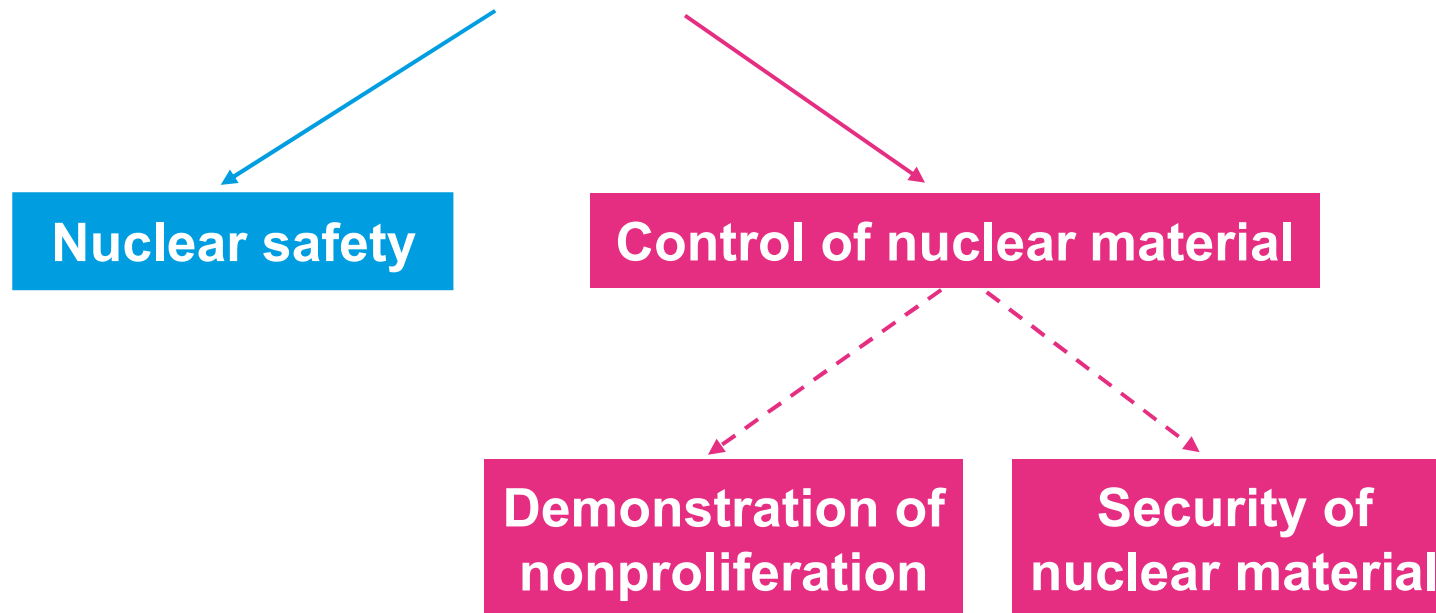


**What would Australia need to do
to launch a nuclear power program?**

What makes nuclear power different?

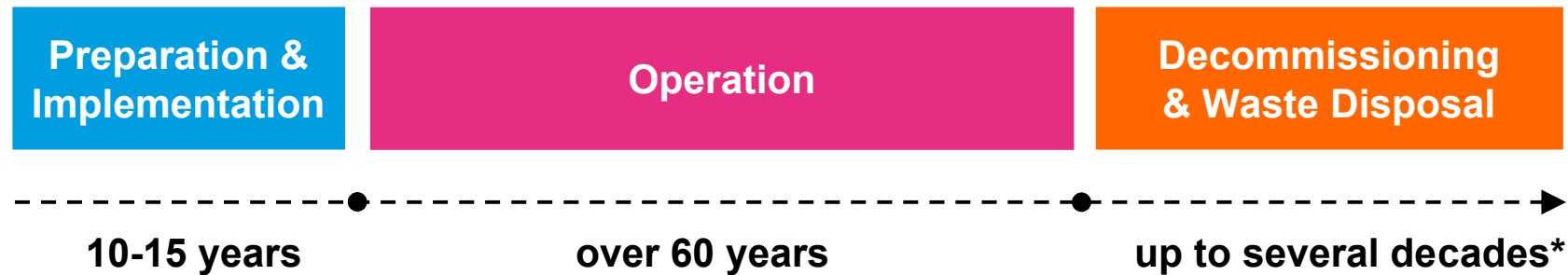


- ▶ Involves the possession and handling of nuclear material



- ▶ Requires a strategic decision at a national level...
- ▶ ...and a full commitment to use nuclear power exclusively for peaceful purposes, in a safe and secure manner

A nuclear power program is a long-term commitment



The national infrastructure for nuclear power must be maintained for at least 100 years

*This depends on national policy and may vary from project to project

The ingredients for success



- ▶ Political and economic **stability** and continuity over the long-term
- ▶ Commit to use nuclear power for **peaceful** purposes exclusively, in a **safe** and **secure** manner
- ▶ Develop a comprehensive and robust nuclear **legal** framework
- ▶ Establish and maintain an effective **regulatory** system
- ▶ Develop the necessary **human** resources
- ▶ Ensure adequate **financial** resources for the entire life cycle
- ▶ Communicate in an open and **transparent** manner with the public and neighbouring countries

Source: Considerations to launch a nuclear power programme, IAEA, 2007

A good foundation already exists in Australia



- ▶ ANSTO
- ▶ ARPANSA
- ▶ ASNO
- ▶ Uranium exploration and mining industry (AUA)

Nuclear power in our region



Source: Map from NIE website

The key question



**Given the current state of nuclear power worldwide
what are the
RISKS
and
OPPORTUNITIES
for Australia?**



Risks

- ▶ **Left behind technologically**
- ▶ **Inability to meet the dual challenge of energy security and climate change**
- ▶ **No domestic capacity to deal with regional nuclear issues**
- ▶ **...**

Opportunities

- ▶ **Sustained market for Australian uranium**
- ▶ **Hosting a regional fuel cycle facility**
- ▶ **Research in materials science for advanced nuclear reactor technologies or radioactive waste treatment**
- ▶ **Developing domestic capacities to participate economically in the global nuclear power industry**
- ▶ **...**

Encouraging genuine public discussion



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJxWwhEEkzI>

